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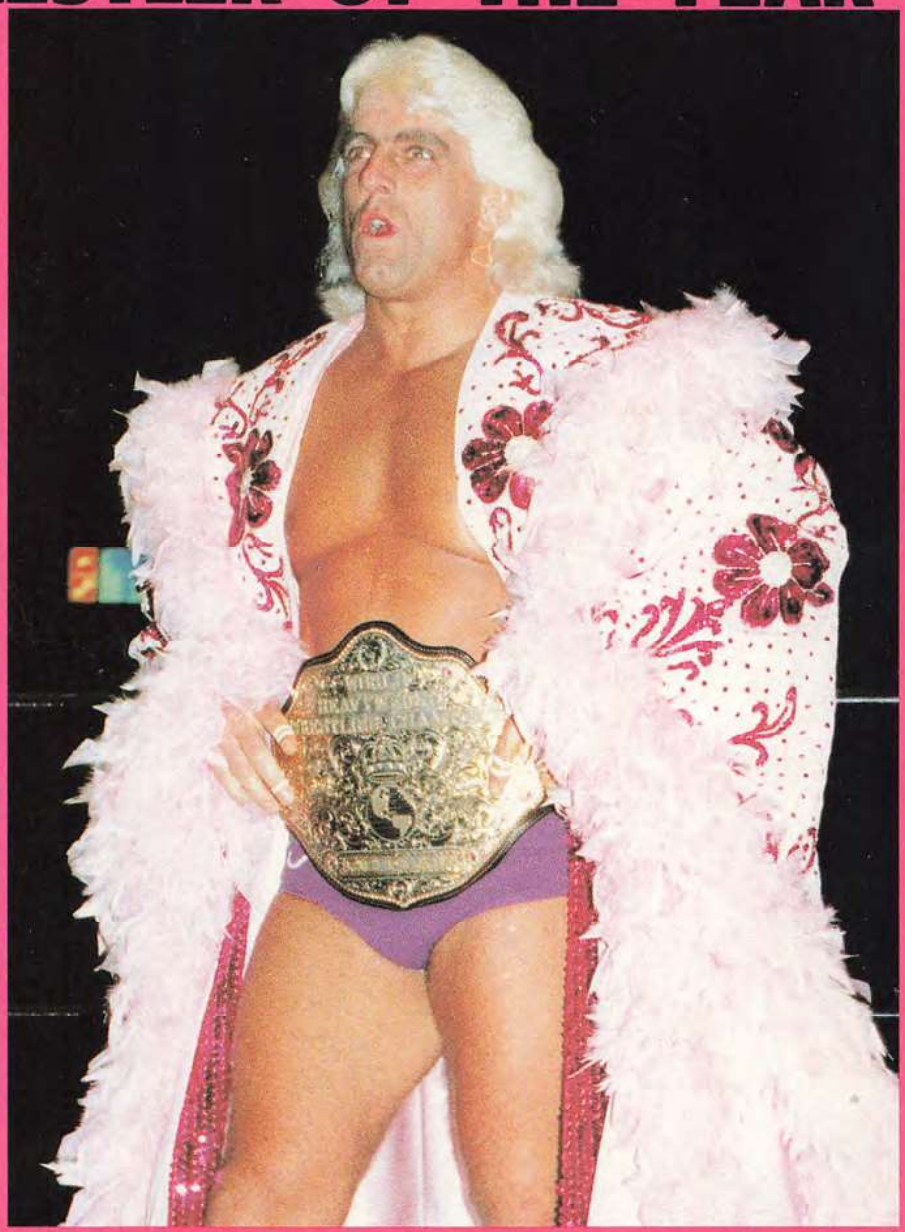

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THE POWERS OF PAIN TURN THEIR BACKS ON THE FANS

RICK STEINER: ON HIS OWN IN THE NWA

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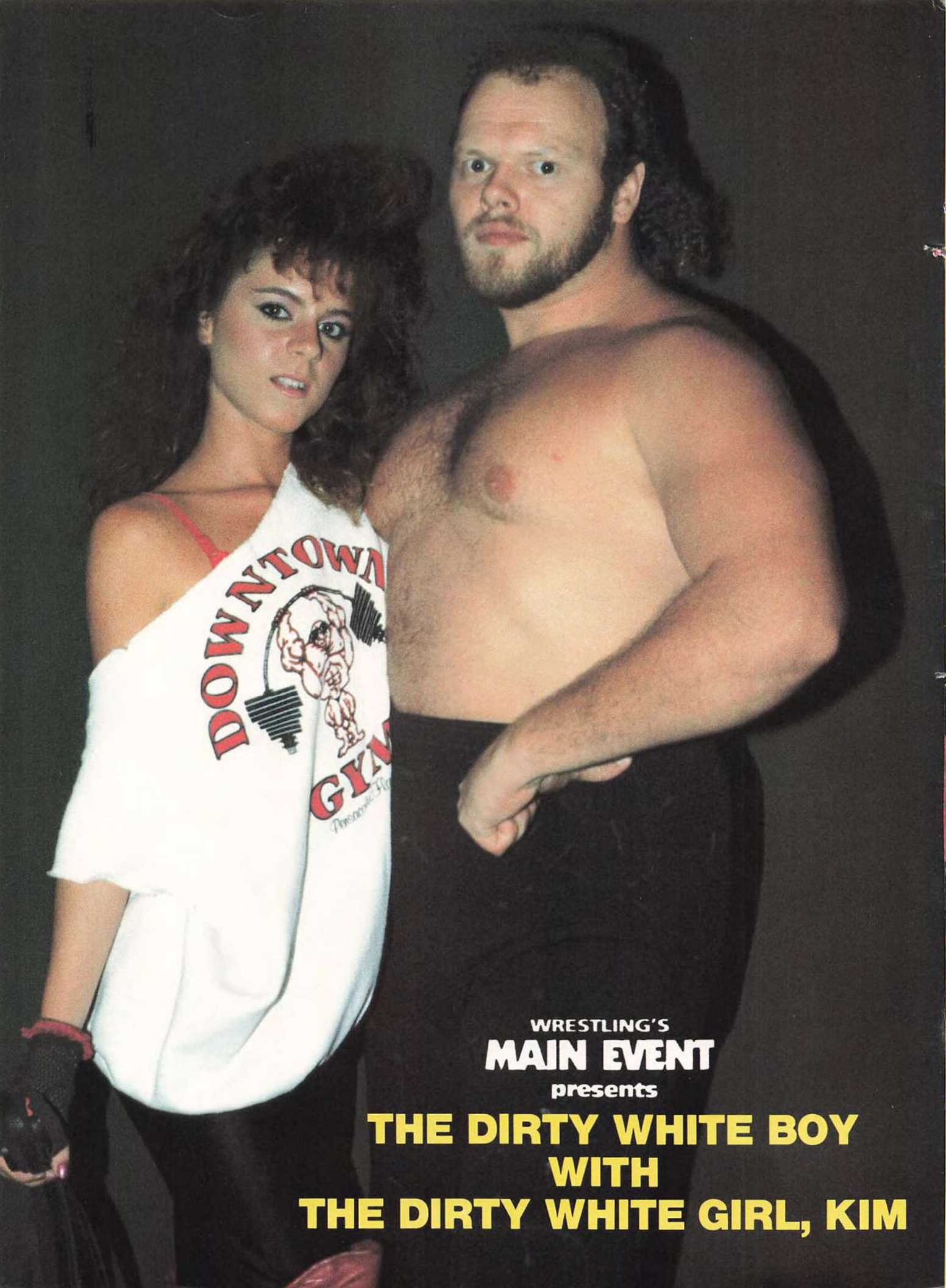

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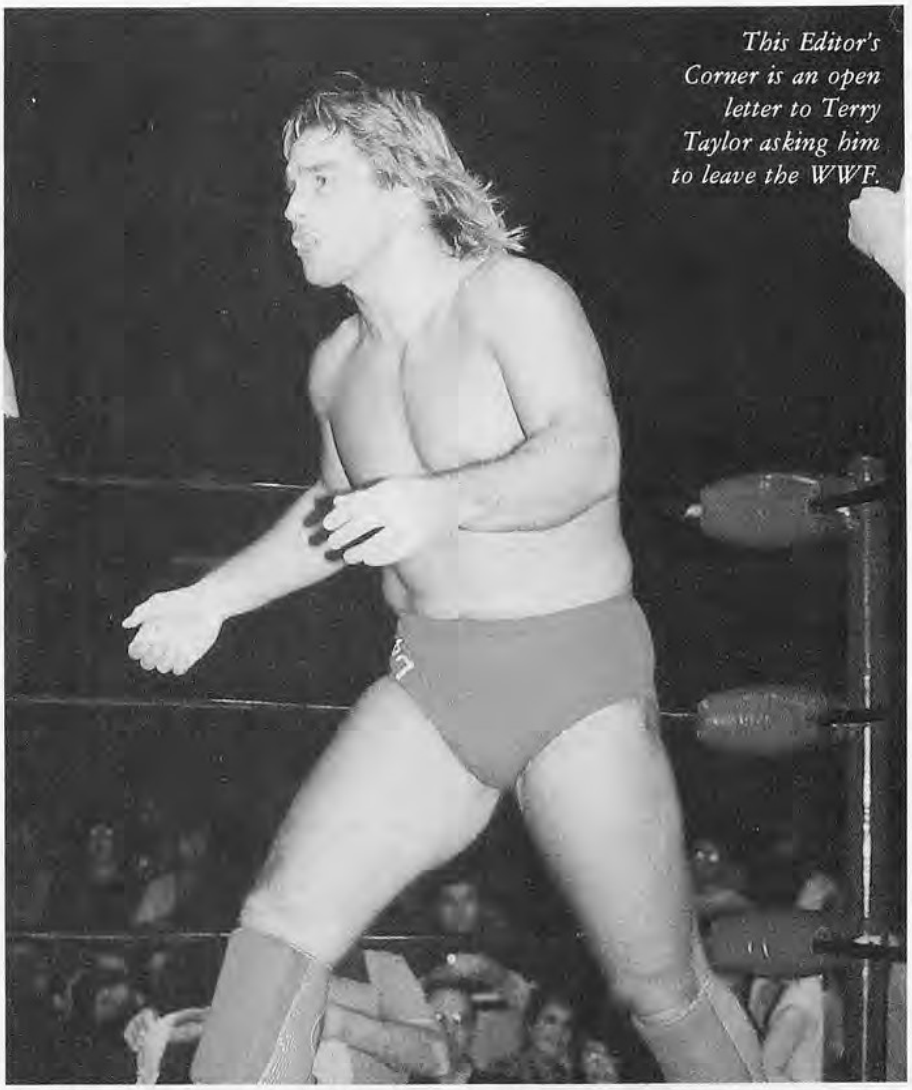
EDITOR'S CORNER



This Editor's Corner is an open letter to Terry Taylor asking him to leave the WWF.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN BEYER

Dear Terry Taylor,

Or shall I call you the "Red Rooster", as you prefer. Maybe I should call you the biggest joke in wrestling today, for that is what you have become. Tell me, Rooster, how does it feel to be told, before a nationwide TV audience, that you are too small to be a good wrestler? How does it feel to be told that you have little or no ability to be a star? How does it feel, ex-UWF World TV Champion, to be told only one man can make you a success in wrestling, and, if you follow Bobby Heenan's advice, you could be just that? How does it feel to be doing this and be committing career suicide at the same time? Because, that is what you are doing to yourself right now, ruining your great reputation as a talented wrestler and a former Champion, in return for the big money the WWF has to offer.

You were one of many wrestlers I counted on who took pride in their ability as athletes and didn't sacrifice that pride in an attempt to gain fame and fortune in the WWF. There are many other men I look to with that same pride in their ability, men such as Ric Flair, Sting, Jerry Lawler, the Von Erichs, the Road Warriors, etc., who I never expect to see in the comedy TV show that is the WWF. I thought you were the same, but, who did I see on my TV in July, wrestling, and losing decisively, in the WWF? Why, it was none other than Terry Taylor, former great wrestler and Champion. The other men I mentioned in this paragraph are some of the decade's greatest wrestling stars, so were you, but, not anymore! Now, you are the laughingstock of the entire wrestling business. What do you think your idol, the man who you modeled your entire career after, Ric Flair, thinks of you now?? What do you think your best friend, Eddie Gilbert, thinks of you now?? What do you think your most hated rival, Chris Adams, thinks of you now?? What do you think all the fans you let down think of you now?? I can't speak for the wrestlers, but, I can speak for the fans, we are all terribly, terribly disappointed in you and wish you well in the future. A future that probably will not include wrestling because after the WWF is finished using you, your career will be in such shambles, it is probably going to be over. Look closely at the Junkyard Dog, a former associate of yours, he came to the WWF as a respected star, he left it as one of the sport's biggest jokes, a man who should have trouble earning a living from now on. Do you want the same thing to happen to you?? I guess you do.

It's unfortunate that your career is probably ruined, however, you still have time to salvage your reputation. Rooster—do you mind if I call you Terry? Terry, leave the WWF, go somewhere else where your ability will be allowed to shine. Forget the big-time and bright lights and get back to what you do best, wrestling. Leave the comedy for the people who have no pride in themselves or their ability, people like Hulk Hogan and Brother Love and the once-great Sheepherders, now Bushwackers, WWF fan favorite tag team. Why not try the NWA where good wrestlers stay and prosper? Or how about the WCCW where you were the Texas State Champion? Anyplace would be fine, just get out of the WWF, get out before it is too late.

Already we have seen signs of change, you just got rid of Bobby Heenan as your manager, however, tremendous damage has been done to your prior reputation. Your first step, getting rid of Heenan, was a good move. Now, take the step out the door and don't let it hit you on the way out and don't turn around until you get into a wrestling organization that will let you wresle and not allow you to be the industry's biggest joke.

Very truly yours,
Sandy Krebs

* * * * * * * * *

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LETTERS
To The Editor

THE UNSUNG HERO

I would like to thank Sandy Krebs for his great article on Kevin Von Erich: An Unsung Hero. In my opinion, Kevin deserves all the titles, fame and fortune that he can get. The article and photos were wonderful. Kevin is just as popular and good looking as his brother, Kerry. What a hunk!!

I've been a fan of Kevin's for a long time and I really appreciated the article. In my opinion, Kevin is the best wrestler in the world. He has my cheers, respect and admiration always.

Sharon Traxler
Fayetteville, Pa.

I want to thank you for your article "Kevin Von Erich: An Unsung Hero" that was published in the Dec. '88 issue of WME.

Having been a Kevin Von Erich fan for a number of years now, I have always thought of Kevin as an "unsung hero". It's nice to see that someone else agrees with me.

Keep up the good work!!

Jill Nash
Eagan, Mn.

WWF IS THE BEST

I can't believe the way your magazine has been taunting the World Wrestling Federation. The people with whom you interview are stupid. For example: in your magazine (Oct. '88 issue) you had an interview with one Ox Baker. The big hypocrite thought that he can take on the WWF. In the interview he said he beat Randy Savage with the Heart Punch. Bull! I bet if Ox Baker stepped into the ring with the *Undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World,* Randy "Macho Man" Savage, he would get crushed.

Another reason why I wrote this letter is that your article in the October, 1988 issue explained that Ric Flair is the "real" World Champion. Gimme a break! Randy Savage will demolish Ric Flair in no time. I'm not taking anything away from Ric Flair. He is a good champion, but not the best. Ric Flair is the five-time NWA World Champion, but the "Macho Man" (during his title reign) has defeated the likes of Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant. Randy is a great Champion. However, I think that the UNDISPUTED WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION is none other than Hulk Hogan. Hulk Hogan has defeated everybody. He defeated Andre the Giant fair and square at Wrestlemania III. During this match Hulk Hogan slammed the big guy in the center of the ring. If Flair would have been wrestling with Andre, the giant would have squashed Flair. That's why I think that Hulk Hogan is the uncrowned Heavyweight Champion of the World!! I think that you people at WME are just jealous of the WWF and Hulk Hogan and his crew!

Another thing, the WWF is *the* wrestling promotion. There is no other promotion like the WWF. The WWF has the world's greatest athletes and the best talent. The NWA is not even close in the talent or popularity roster. Why do you think all of the former NWA wrestlers are coming to the WWF?

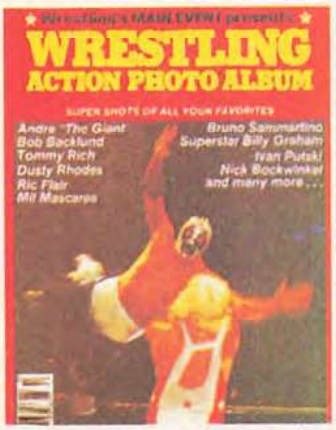
Daniel Rivera
Bronx, N.Y.

FINALLY, SOME RECOGNITION!!

Thanks for the great article about Jack Victory and "Hollywood" John Tatum in your latest issue. It's about time this team got the recognition it deserves! I don't care if they're "good" or "bad", what I look for is talent—and these two definitely have it!! Top this off with their size, 6'2" and 6'4" and strength, these two are definitely a team to watch out for. Let's face it, if Flair wants to revive the "Horsemen" with Tully and Arn gone, he better think about signing these two on before the WWF gets ahold of them.

Ben Sitter
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

COLLECTORS EDITIONS



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CURT HENNIG
PERFECT IN THE WWF

Former AWA World Heavyweight Champion, Curt Hennig, has made a quick, good impression with his ability in the WWF wrestling ring. "Mr. Perfect" has shown fans and wrestlers alike what it takes to be a star in the sport—good, natural athletic ability. This ability has taken Curt to the top before and will again, this time against the WWF's roster of fan favorites.

By DON LAIBLE

"Mr. Perfect". That would appear to be a difficult billing for anyone in professional wrestling to live up to. Don't let Curt Hennig hear that. Since his arrival in the World Wrestling Federation Hennig has lived up to his perfection claim with little resistance. As in all sports, the more an athlete practices and works on perfecting his or her game, improvement almost always prevails. For Curt Hennig the process appears to be well in operation. You name the activity and Curt has excelled beyond the current set standards. Once he gets involved in a situation, he lays tougher foundations for future followers to accomplish.

Pride is perhaps the single most important factor in Curt Hennig's quest to remain in perfect physical and mental condition. A native of Robinsdale, Minnesota, he has been around the wrestling world since his youth. The pressure to perform, at times beyond one's abilities, for any second generation athlete is always felt. Being the son of former grappling great Larry "The Ax" Hennig has had its advantages as well as disadvantages for "Mr. Perfect".

Learning the sport from his dad and other accomplished pros since the time he learned to walk has put Curt in the position as being one of the game's most well versed competitors. When guys who have scored as many victories as Wilbur Snyder, Billy Robinson and "Lord" James Blears are teaching you the ring secrets that helped make them mat superstars, it has to have a positive influence on your wrestling performance. Being around the greats is how Curt wants to be looked upon by his fellow wrestlers and more importantly by the fans. Getting instructions from those who have made their mark in wrestling, those who built a reputation as no nonsense, never settling for second best athletes is the attitude acquired by "Mr. Perfect".

Curt Hennig combines scientific skill and all-out aggression to beat a man.

Although he has begun building a legacy of his own in the WWF now, the best years thus far for Curt Hennig have been while touring for the American Wrestling Association. In 1985, with Big Scott Hall as his tag partner, Curt was one half of the AWA Tag Team Champions. Some of the toughest tandems attempted to lift them of their belts. The Fabulous Freebirds: Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell, and the duo of Jerry Blackwell and Ken Patera gave Hennig and Hall valuable wrestling lessons which molded Curt into a better

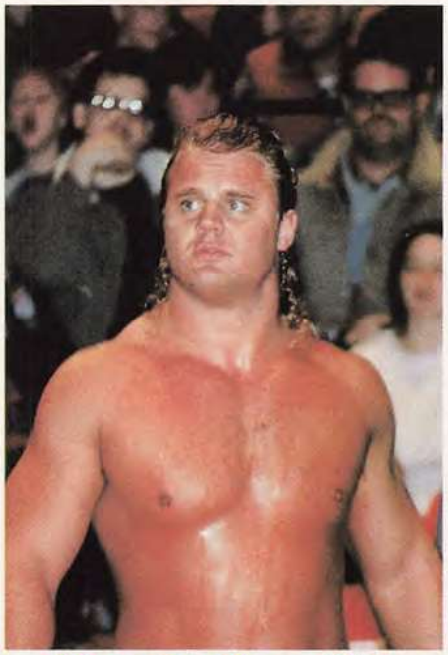
PHOTOS BY ED RUSSINO, JOE ZANOLLE and JOHN BARRETT

well-rounded competitor.

Nick Bockwinkle, former AWA Heavyweight Champion, also had a role in molding Hennig's career. Nick and Larry "The Ax" were close friends for many years. During Curt's tenure with the AWA and when traveling the roads together, Nick went to the gyms with the younger Hennig to keep a watchful eye over the budding mat star. However, a dramatic turn in events, mainly in his new attitude towards his approach to his opponents, assisted in establishing a tougher, more aggressive Curt Hennig.

The final year that Curt Hennig spent within the AWA territory, a highlight few wrestlers, for that matter any athlete, will ever experience came his way. The ultimate compliment was strapped around Hennig's waist, the World Heavyweight Championship belt. The title match pitted the pupil against his former teacher. Curt Hennig challenged Nick Bockwinkle for his laurels in San Francisco, California's Cow Palace Arena.

Knowing what rewards would lay ahead of him should he seize the opportunity and defeat the cagey veteran Nick Bockwinkle, Hennig took full advantage of the opportunity. With his trusted pal, Larry Zbyszko, at ringside to cheer



"Some People say "Mr. Perfect" is arrogant, overconfident and bold".

him on, Curt had "all the bases covered". Should his conventional ring repertoire prove to be nonconclusive in overpowering Bockwinkle, then back up "plan B" would be implemented. Sure enough, worn down and battered, when referee Gary DeRusha was distracted by "Honest" Larry, Hennig had what appeared to be a roll of quarters ushered into his right hand. After Zbyszko slipped the coins to Curt, Bockwinkle was the unfortunate recipient of a "round house right" fist full of quarters. On impact, Nick dropped immediately to the canvas, knocked out cold for much longer than the required three count. Tainted but the fact remained, Curt Hennig was the new AWA World Champion.

For the year in which he wore the AWA belt, Hennig traveled great distances to take on the finest domestic and international talent. With youth and a strong will to be perfect in the ring on his side, Curt Hennig was virtually unbeatable. Sure he took his lumps and received his share of stitches but the situation remained, the title was his. Curt's most serious threat to his Championship was Wahoo McDaniel. Indian strap matches and taped fist encounters were the norm between these two. During one of their brawls, broadcast from Coast to Coast on the ESPN Cable Network, Hennig opened a gash on Wahoo's forehead that

"Mr. Perfect" rarely ends up with the short end of the purse and never takes a backward step in the ring.

Hennig is tired of wrestling weak competition, now he wants Savage and the Ultimate Warrior in the ring.

required 18 stitiches to close. Their matches were nasty but the young champ held his own quite nicely against the seasoned pro.

No, "Mr. Perfect" didn't come running with his tail between his legs to the WWF after losing his title to Jerry "The King" Lawler in the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis, Tenn. on May 9, 1988. Far from it. "Mr. Perfect" had an off-night, period. Hennig sat down with trusted advisors and re-evaluated the direction in which his career was going.

He became tired, even bored, with the same old faces put in the ring against him. With a dwindling talent roster and fewer bookings from the AWA hierarcy, it was Good-bye, Minneapolis, Hello, New York. 'He was the franchise, the future of prosperity for the AWA. The promoters should never have let him walk away. "Mr. Perfect" did a lot of things to make me a better wrestler and helped me win the AWA Woman's World Title. I feel sorry for the poor slobs that are stupid enough to get in the ring with him. They don't come more determined than "Mr. Perfect"', Madusa Miceli said.

The WWF isn't an organization strange to Curt Hennig. Back in 1981, it was in the WWF where Curt found out just how tough the competition can get. "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert and Hennig embarked during their wrestling infancy into the ring wars of the WWF at the same time. The two rookies appeared in many tag matches as a unit. A sense of respect and friendship was born between Hennig and Gilbert eight years ago. Today, they continue to be close in and out of the arena.

Unlike Ted "The Million Dollar Man" DiBiase, "Mr. Perfect" doesn't need or want to buy anyone or anything. Natural athletic ability gets him his way, time and time again. He gets the job done almost effortlessly in a rather quick and convincing manner each time he steps in between the ropes. No fanfare, no fancy robes, very little if any ranting and raving, a towel is the only object "Mr. Perfect" brings to the "squared circle", to wipe his brow of what little sweat he works up.

Koko B. Ware, Paul Roma and Jim Brunzell have been among the first wave of quality men put down for the pin by Curt Hennig in the WWF. Some people say "Mr. Perfect" is arrogant, over confident and bold, that's his way of accepting and indulging in his far superior skills that have made him an American success story.

Curt "Mr. Perfect" Hennig is a natural at winning, his hand has been raised in victory throughout his athletic career. Showdowns with Randy Savage, Brutus Beefcake and The Ultimate Warrior are inevitable. They may be larger and more muscular than "Mr. Perfect" but that doesn't worry him. Bright and articulate, the clever Hennig has out-thought and out-maneuvered many of the sport's biggest mat monsters. Curt Hennig's waist is used to gold belts snuggly fitted around his belt line and he's itchy for that feeling once again. How does he feel about his chances of winning a title belt in the WWF? Simply perfect.

忍者

The Super Black Ninja IN AMERICA TO AVENGE HIS FATHER

The Super Black Ninja came to America for one reason, avenge his father's injuries at the hands of Fritz Von Erich many, many years ago. Fritz no longer wrestles but his sons do. Now the Ninja is in Texas to do to his sons what Fritz did to his father—end their careers!!

By AL McGINESS

The story I am about to write is a sad one. It is a story about a man, whose life was ruined by a devious Nazi, growing up and getting revenge on that man and his family.

This story was told to me by my friend, Kenji Murasawa, a Japanese immigrant who now lives in America. It is about the Super Black Ninja, the Nazi, Fritz Von Erich and the Ninja's father, a man who was once a great wrestler. Kenji was a friend of the Ninja's family and knew how Fritz Von Erich destroyed their lives so many years ago. The story begins in 1964, back in those days Fritz Von Erich did not try to conceal what he was, he was a Nazi, plain and simple, and a maniac in the ring. There was nobody more vicious and evil in the squared circle than good old Fritz. Be it fan favorite or rulebreaker, if he was a German enemy, he felt the wrath of this Nazi criminal. Fritz was summoned home to East Germany to meet with the government. The heads of state wanted Fritz to go to Japan and get revenge for his people on the Japanese for not holding up their part of the bargain in the Big War and costing Hitler his chance at dominating the world, by caving in to the Big Bomb at Hiroshima. Let's get one thing straight right now, the world was different then, the Japanese did not dominate things the way they do today. There was no such thing as Sony or Panasonic, no real American would be caught dead in a Japanese car and the Japanese wrestlers were not the wrestling machines they are today. With the exception of Giant Baba and Rikidozan, they were small, skinny runts. Fritz Von Erich went to Japan with his 6'5", 265 lb. body and was easily able to destroy anyone put in his path.

There was one man who was not afraid of the dreaded Nazi war-monger. He was Giant Baba. He and his partner, the father of Super Black Ninja, (I have been told that I *must* keep this man's name a secret) set out to stop the vicious maniac. The Ninja's father secured a match with Fritz first. He was short (5'8") and squat (about 205 lbs.), certainly no match for Nazi terrorism. Well, I guess you know what happened. Fritz completely dominated this poor Japanese and finally placed him in the dreaded Iron Claw. Showing no compassion for his beaten, valiant opponent, Fritz refused to release the hold after he had driven his opponent into a bloody, unconscious mess. Finally, Giant Baba came to the ring to rescue his friend and drive Fritz Von Erich away from the ring. But, it was too late. The vicious Claw had severely injured his opponent and he needed life-saving surgery (he had a fractured skull) which enabled him to live a somewhat normal life. However, he would no longer be able to wrestle and he suffered because of it. His wife was pregnant with a child, who eventually would turn out to be the Ninja, and he could find no work. His obsession with getting revenge on Fritz Von Erich nearly drove him insane as his preoccupation kept him from concentrating on the few jobs he was able to secure. With no money, the family, as well as the young child, were driven into a life of poverty and despair. The once-happy young child, after years of listening to his father's tales, became bitter and vowed to avenge his father. He asked his father if he could train him to become a wrestler, so that he could come to America and destroy Fritz Von Erich and his family. The father, proud of his young

No man can stop the Super Black Ninja from his goal. In October at the WCCW Cotton Bowl show, he defeated four men in less than five minutes.

PHOTOS BY BOB MILLER

son, was happy to do so. For several years, throughout the youth's teenaged years, the father trained the son. Once a scientific wrestler, the hard years made the father hateful and bitter and he taught his son to show no mercy in the ring. To dominate his opponent from the opening bell to when the opponent was out cold on the mat. He also taught him a hold he had never used, the Iron Claw. The father never used the Claw because he never wanted to hurt his opponent, just beat him. But, he wanted the Von Erichs destroyed and knew of no better way to destroy these vicious men than with their own crippling hold.

After years of training, the Ninja was ready to make his professional wrestling debut. Not having the money to come to America, he wrestled in Japan until he could afford to come here. In 1985, the Ninja came to America. The father didn't want him to go to Texas right away, his son was too young and too naive to go to that crooked state immediately. He wanted his son to learn the ways of America and the hardships it takes to live here first, before he allowed him to go to the WCCW, home of the Von Erich saints.

The Ninja's first stop in America was Florida, a place where a lot of immigrants live. He hooked himself up with the "House of Humperdink", and along with his new-found friend and advisor, Kendo Nagasaki, set about to destroy the American fan favorites, Musclehead Luger and the Windhams. Within a short period of time, the Ninja was the Florida State Champion and he dominated Florida wrestling. The wimps didn't know how to defend themselves against his awesome attack.

Soon, the Ninja was ordered to leave Florida and go to the Pacific Northwest. He dominated that area as well, demolishing men such as the Assassin and the Southern Rockers. Not wanting to spend a winter in the cold, rainy Northwest, the Ninja left Oregon and went to sunny Puerto Rico.

For those of you not familiar with Puerto Rican wrestling, let me just say it may be the toughest area around. Mercenaries such as Stan Hansen and Abdullah the Butcher wrestle there regularly. Bruiser Brody was a good guy there!! Blood flows like water. It was here that the Ninja would stage his final battles before going to Texas and destroying the Von Erich myth once and for all. He needed to sharpen and toughen his skills so that he would be assured of never being cheated out of his destiny when he was ready for the WCCW and the rampart corruption (in favor of Von Erichs) wrestlers normally experience there. The Ninja had some very bloody battles with the devious Carlos Colon and Miguelito Perez and, along with Nagasaki, won the WWC World Tag Straps. On his own, the Ninja won the WWC TV Championship. Back in Japan his father watched proudly. He knew the time for revenge was near. In October of 1988, the message came from Japan: Go to Texas, destroy the Von Erichs, regain honor for your family!

Unfortunately, Fritz Von Erich is too old to wrestle and, even if he wanted to, he was finished off by the Mighty Freebirds last Christmas night. However, there are still Von Erichs in the business that can be eliminated, Kerry and Kevin. They are the last of the despicable Von Erichs still in wrestling. The Ninja came to Texas to make the sons pay for the father's sins. First on the list was Kevin. The Ninja unleashed the Iron Claw, for the first time ever in his career, and Kevin bled like a pig. Soon after, Kevin disappeared from the Texas wrestling rings, without a trace. Where are you, Kevin?? Is that a yellow streak running down your back I see?? Get back in the ring and take your punishment like a man!! And soon! As for you, Kerry Von Erich, soon it will be your turn. Soon you will be punished for your father's crime, soon you will bleed, even worse than you did in Chicago. Soon your career will be over, ended the same way your father ended a Japanese wrestler's career many, many years ago. I can't wait!! ■

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THE LORD'S MANOR

By SHEEPHERDER LORD JONATHAN BOYD

Good day America, say hello to the new I.C.W. World Heavyweight Champion. Yes, say hello to me, Lord of the Sheepherders, Lord Jonathan Boyd, Australia's Royal Kangaroo, New Zealand's greatest professional wrestler, a man from down under that has been Champion in 37 different countries and now "Champion of the World".

Like Hurricane Gilbert destroyed Mexico, Lord Jonathan Boyd is destroying all comers that enter the I.C.W. ring wars and ex-I.C.W. World Champion, "Jumping" Joe Savoldi, was no exception. Wrestling fans bear witness to the fact that violence has re-entered the wrestling competition. Yes, I call what I do to other wrestlers violence mixed with brutality, the only breaks wrestlers will get from this Lord of the Ring will be in the way of broken bones, busted heads and hospital beds. Ask "Jumping" Joe what it is like to look across the ring and see me standing there, ask him about the fear of being injured by the meanest wrestler in the world, ask him when the bell rang was he fighting to hold the I.C.W. World Title or was he fighting for his life? And, if he is an honest Yank (and there are not too many honest Yanks left), he will tell you he was fighting for his life as I beat him into a bloody pulp. Ask him did he scream in pain many times as I continuosly attacked his head and body, and ask him how happy he was when it was over. The referee counted Savoldi's shoulders down 1..2..3.. and Savoldi was happy to be helped out so he could seek medical attention, and, as he looked back at the ring, he saw a new World Champion being crowned. Yes, me, Lord Jonathan Boyd. The victory party lasted for three days honoring the greatest Champion in the world. Telegrams and calls from all over the world keep my staff busier than ever. My Queen and family are proud of my wrestling battles throughout the world, and now, being the International Championship Wrestling World's Champion, I will be known as the only wrestler of breeding who has ever held such a title. I was born with Royal blood, I was born to be Lord of the Realm, I was born to rule, and now I rule the wrestling world and will do so as long as I see fit to.

The I.C.W. has a Champion in me that they can be proud of, I promise all my fans that I will defend against only the best in the world.

Once I would have to travel the world seeking titles to add to my collection and now the wrestling shoe is on the other foot. Now, those big-mouthed, would-be if they could-be Champions will have to face me. I pity them!!

Lord Jonathan Boyd is the new I.C.W. World Heavyweight Champion.

PHOTO BY STEVE STOGDALE

Time for I.C.W. fan letter answers:

Q: Are Vic Steamboat and Joe Savoldi still I.C.W. Tag Champions?

A: Yes, they are a great team. I wish I had a partner at this time, but, I don't. The Duke has a team called the Power Twins, Dave and brother, Larry. These two Yanks are big with the taste for the big-time. The Duke says it is only a matter of time before they will defeat the team of the S & S Express and the Tag Titles will be in the Duke's family of wrestlers.

Q: Did Prince Kahlua run Tom (Mr. Chippendale) Brandi out of the I.C.W.?

A: It sure did look like it, but, Tom Brandi is back and looks bigger and better than ever!! Kahlua and Brandi hate one another and it shows in their matches. I love a good fight and wrestling rules go out the window when these two men do battle.

God Bless the Queen!!

Long Live the Lord!! ■

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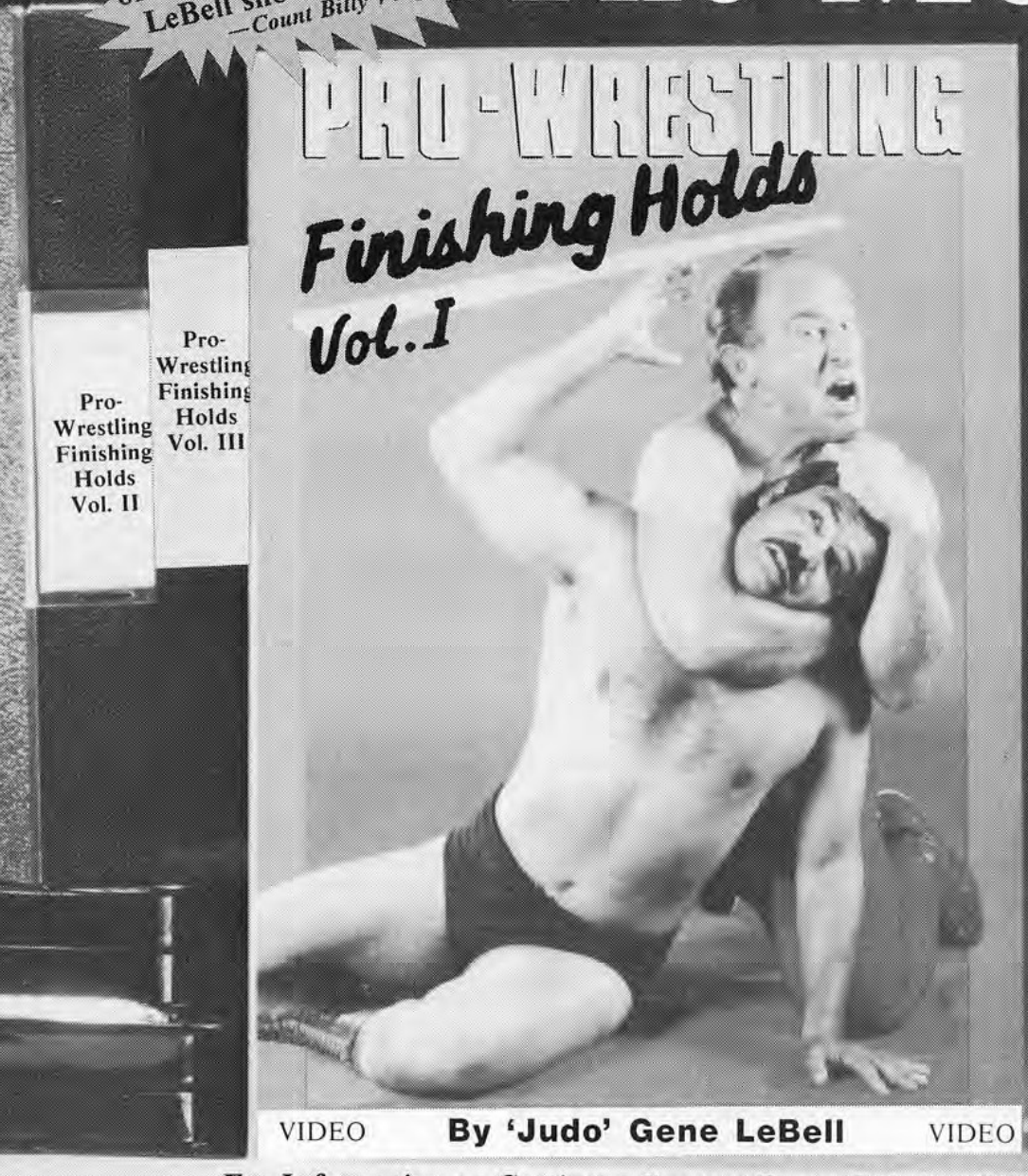

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VIDEO REVIEWS

Professional No-Holds-Barred Look at Today's Video Market

WRESTLING GOLD VOL. 3
Kit Parker Films. Call toll free 800-538-5838

WRESTLING QUALITY: B+

Tommy Rich, The Rock 'N' Roll Express, Randy Savage, Dick Slater, Dory Funk Jr., the (Original) Shiek, Terry Funk and Harley Race are some of the big stars on the tape. The matchups are interesting, especially the Rock 'N' Roll Express squaring off against Lanny Poffo and Savage. A bloody steel cage match between the (original) Shiek and Tiger Jeet Singh will prove to you (if you hadn't already known) what kind of uncontrollable maniac the Shiek was.

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: A

Again Kit Parker Films comes through for all true wrestling fans out there. Educating as well as entertaining the viewer, he turns some of his younger audience onto such immortals as The Shiek, the Fabulous Blondes, Harley (not the WWF's version of a king yet) Race and Pepper Gomez.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): A+

The best quality from some of the hardest to find footage around. Compiling old classics on his tapes with superb accuracy.

TOTAL GRADE: A

Although lacking the punch of the first two volumes it holds it's own as far as being entertaining and informative. Another quick note: Check out a young Al Perez as he teams with Manny Fernandez, you may be seeing a future World Champion

WRESTLING GOLD VOL. 4
Kit Parker Films. Call toll free 800-538-5838

WRESTLING QUALITY: C+

The two highlights of the tape are Terry Funk vs. Mark Lewin and Jerry Lawler vs. Kamala. Other matches include Austin Idol vs. Jim Neidhart, (ok), Junkyard Dog vs. Butch Reed, (fair), Bundy vs. Lawler, (ok), Tommy Rich vs. Massa Ito, (ok) and even Ray Stevens, Blackjack Mulligan and Baron VonRaschke vs. The Crusher, Dick the Bruiser and Sailor Art Thomas which was interesting. Totally unnecessary and clearly the worst match ever to appear on the Wrestling Gold tapes, Rick Rude, Jim Neidhart and Ox Baker (old pal) vs. Robert Reed (who?), Tiger Mask (yea, right!!), Keith Eric and Mad Dog (not Mad Dog Vachon.).

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: B

Interesting, not great but interesting. Some of the footage of Funk, Lawler, Kamala and Bundy was interesting but there was nothing outstanding for the wrestling enthusiast.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): A

Credit is given where credit is due. Kit Parker Films continuously finds old classical, interesting footage. You must have one hell of an archives, guys.

TOTAL GRADE: B-

Don't start to slip guys. Watch carefully what matches you mix on your tapes. You started out strong with the first two volumes, but including second rate wrestlers in your presentation is taking after the WWF-TV shows. Know what I mean?

SURVIVOR SERIES
Coliseum Video: $39.95

WRESTLING QUALITY: B+

A 45 minute tag team Survival match that was truly exciting. The Rockers were noteworthy in this match. The surprise betrayal of Demolition by Mr. Fuji. Hogan & Savage in the main event against the team headed by the Big Boss Man and Akeem. The other two matches were nothing special.

PRESENTATION OF WRESTLING & NON-WRESTLING MATERIAL: A

Original interviews that were not seen on the pay-per-view show featuring Randy Savage and Bad News Brown. The interviews added something to the Survivor Series and possibly Wrestlemania V. Shown with original crowd reaction, the fans booed Demolition when they attacked The Powers of Pain after the tag match.

TAPE QUALITY (INCLUDING CUTS AND COMPLETE MATCHES): B-

The tag team and last matches were excellent and uncut. The first and third matches were severely cut and only last about ten minutes apiece. The camera work was up to Coliseum's usual standards. The new interviews didn't affect the continuity of the show. Pay special attention to Savage's post-match interview with Jesse Ventura.

TOTAL GRADE: B

An interesting show with all the twists and turns that were involved. Because of the edited matches, this grade is lower than deserved. The tape captured genuine excitement in the tag team and last matches. All in all, another top job by Coliseum Video.

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DIZZY ADAMS VS. THE BLACK WIDOW

— and —

One of our own London gals takes on the might and menace of the U.S.A. The masked, mysterious, mean and moody Black Widow gives no quarter for the members of her own sex. Although we all speak the same language on both sides of the pond this Black Widow does not heed the public warnings of the referee.

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This issue compares female fighting in the U.S. and Britain. Who has the more impressive wrestlers in real competition? Which country demands to see violent knockouts? Also an in-depth feature on the true pioneer of wrestling Sue Brittain. Sue held the ladies title till 1981 when she decided to retire but these all-out action photos show why the "Champion of Champions" is sadly missed but never forgotten. Finally we have 2 erotic apartment house catfights. Featuring two beautiful girls in high heels & miniskirts. **FGM20 $7.50**

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A young but inspired wrestler (Julie Fielding) thought she had it made with a shot at the champion Goldy Wells. At almost 6 feet tall, Julie had a significant height and weight advantage, but can she overcome the vast experience and skill which has made little blonde Goldy a worthy champion for years. Also two grappling females fight to the finish. Both dressed in mini-skirts & high-heels. **FGM21 $7.50**

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WRESTLING'S ROUND-UP

A monthly report on all the latest happenings in the world of Professional Wrestling . . .

MADUSA MICELI QUITS THE AWA

Former AWA Women's World Champion, Madusa Miceli, has quit that organization after a successful year-long reign as a Champion. Madusa left the AWA right after the SuperClash III show held in Chicago, Illinois on December 13th. Two weeks earlier, Madusa had lost her title to Wendi Richter in Minneapolis, Minn. in a controversial match.

In an exclusive interview with WME Madusa explained why she left the AWA at this time. "I've got a lot of things in the fire, you know, I'm not just an ordinary wrestler. I've got modeling offers, I've been in movies and I have my own merchandising company. Wrestling is just a small part of my life. For the next few months, I've decided to develop these other aspects of my career and put the wrestling on hold for awhile. I've got a new movie coming out called "The Revenge", I'm up for modeling jobs all around the world and I will be appearing on MTV in several music videos. In January, I will be going to Japan to wrestle and I'm looking forward to going there, I hear those Japanese girls can really wrestle."

After losing her World Title to Wendi Richter, Madusa Miceli quit the AWA.

In Medusa's last AWA match, it appeared as if she cost Badd Company the AWA World Tag Team Championships. A stipulation of the match was that Champions could lose their belts in this match. Part of the six-man team, along with Paul Diamond and Pat Tanaka, Madusa was pinned by Wendi Richter after a savate kick by Tanaka went awry. Richter's partners, Derrick Dukes and Ricky Rice, were awarded the Tag Straps by the referee and announced as the new Champions. Badd Company and "Diamond" Dallas Page, their manager, were infuriated. They couldn't understand how they could lose their belts without being pinned. An argument broke out between Badd Company and Madusa which saw her slap Tanaka in the face. Insulting words were screamed between the former friends as Page blamed Madusa for losing the straps. It was all a misunderstanding, however, as the rules were misinterpreted, the belts could only be lost *if* a Champion was pinned and Badd Company regained control of the AWA World Tag Team Belts. ■

TWO TITLES CHANGE HANDS AT STARRCADE '88

The biggest NWA wrestling card of the year, "Starrcade '88—True Gritt", featured two title changes. A title change took place in the very first match of the evening as the Fantastics lost the NWA U.S. Tag Team Belts to Varsity Club members, Kevin Sullivan and Steve "Dr. Death" Williams. Both teams started off fast in this match, however the Fantastics were eventually worn down by the excess size and strength of Williams and Sullivan. At one point during the match Tommy Rogers was unable to tag out to his partner for about five minutes, as he was double-teamed continually by the Varsity Club. Finally Rogers was able to tag Bobby Fulton and the tide turned momentarily. Fulton went on the offensive and caught Williams in a sleeper hold, which he couldn't hold onto. Fulton then tried a Thesz body-press and, as he attempted the maneuver, Williams dropped him on his throat, over the top rope, in his version of Eddie Gilbert's "Hot Shot".

The Fantastics lost the NWA U.S. Titles to the Varsity Club at Starrcade '88 when Steve Williams used Eddie Gilbert's "Hot Shot" to pin Bobby Fulton.

Fulton fell backwards for an easy pin by Williams and there were new Champions.

The other Championship change saw Rick Steiner defeat his ex-Varsity Club teammate, Mike Rotunda, for the NWA World TV Title. Early in the match, Rotunda was frustrated by Steiner's power and surprising speed. At about the ten minute mark, Steiner was thrown from the ring head first which changed the momentum of the match for awhile and put Rotunda at a definite advantage. In this match, Kevin Sullivan was sus-

PHOTOS BY JOE ZANOLLE, DEBRA MOSER and ED RUSSINO

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A monthly report on all the latest happenings in the world of Professional Wrestling . . .

pended from a cage over the ring to prevent him from interfering. With about five minutes left in the match, Steve Williams, the other Varsity Club member, came to ringside. Steiner had regained the advantage and suplexed and tried to pin Rotunda, who kicked out. Then Steiner executed a belly-to-belly suplex on Rotunda and went for a pin. The bell rang and confusion reigned. Sullivan was lowered to ringside, Steiner thought he had won the belt and Tommy Young, the chief NWA referee, came to the ring to confer with referee Teddy Long. It was determined that Williams rang the bell, illegally, and the match was continued. Rotunda tried to whip Steiner into Sullivan, who was standing on the ring apron, the move was reversed and Mike was whipped into Kevin. Rotunda fell backward, stunned and Steiner pinned him to win the TV Title.

In other title matches at Starrcade, The Road Warriors were disqualified in the World Tag Team Title match against Sting and Dusty Rhodes. Sting had Road Warrior Animal pinned in the center of the ring, after he executed a (second) flying body-press on the Warrior. At the count of two, "Precious" Paul Ellering grabbed the referee and pulled him away from the action which resulted in the Road Warriors immediate disqualification. In the NWA World Championship match, Ric Flair pinned Lex Luger to retain his title. Lex took charge early in the match and definitely looked like a winner this evening. He superplexed the Champion and caught him in his own finishing hold, the Figure Four leg-lock. Flair broke that hold by grabbing the ropes. In this match, Flair could lose his belt if he was disqualified, so J.J. Dillon's presence at ringside was limited in this match. One time, when Luger forearmed Tommy Young, J.J. came onto the ring apron to argue for a disqualification win for his man. In the meantime, Luger had Flair pinned in the middle of the ring to no avail. At the 22 minute mark, Flair took the bout outside the ring, grabbed a chair and smashed it onto Lex's left knee. This was the turning point as Lex was limited the rest of the way, as his leg wouldn't support his weight enough for his patented power moves. Flair further weakened Lex by clamping on the figure-four. Eventually, Lex reversed the hold. Incredibly, Lex was able to come back and go on the offensive as he was able to trap the Champion in the "Human Torture Rack". It looked as if there would be a new Champion, as Flair was helpless and J.J. couldn't help. Then, Lex's leg buckled underneath his weight, Flair flipped over on top of Lex and, with the aid of the ropes, pinned him after almost 31 minutes of action.

Barry Windham retained the NWA U.S. Title by beating Bam Bam Bigelow by a count-out. Bam Bam used his excess weight to counteract Barry's skill and speed. Bam Bam hit his patented splash over the top rope to apparently win the U.S. Title, however, at the count of two, he let Barry up. He wanted to punish him more. This was a costly mistake as he tried to finish Barry off with the "Atomic Splash" and missed. The match went to the outside ring area and the two men battled around the ring as the referee counted them out. Barry Windham got back in the ring at the count of eight, while Bam Bam couldn't get in until a split second after the fatal ten count, which caused him to lose the match.

In other Starrcade matches, the Midnight Express defeated the "Original" Midnight Express after Paul E. Dangerouly interfered on his team's behalf. He hit Stan Lane over the head with the phone while Teddy Long was distracted and put Randy Rose in a pinning position. Long was counting out Lane when he saw the phone and stopped the count at two. The "Originals" were arguing with Long when Lane and Eaton gave Rose the "Double Doozle" and pinned him to win. The Russian Assassins defeated Junkyard Dog & Ivan Koloff and Junkyard Dog won the first of the "Bunkhouse Stampedes". ■

As you are reading this, WRESTLEMANIA V will be about to take place. Based on incidents that have occurred recently between Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan at the Survivor Series and on the most recent "Saturday Night's Main Event", it appears they will be matched up against each other in the main event. At the Survivor Series, Hogan was handcuffed to the ring ropes by Big Boss Man and Akeem while Savage was wrestling King Haku in the ring. Akeem and Boss Man joined Haku in beating Savage mercilessly. Savage did not know Hogan was handcuffed outside the ring and tried to tag out, but found no partner in his corner. In Randy's corner, Elizabeth was frantic, she didn't know what to do. Finally, her opening came when both Slick and Bobby Heenan were knocked to the floor. She ran over to that side of the ring, went into Slick's pocket to get the keys to the handcuffs and released Hogan.

Will Randy Savage's jealousy cause the end of the MegaPowers?

From there, Hogan went back to the corner, Savage was thrown into it by Haku and he tagged Hogan. Hogan pinned Haku to win the match for his team. Afterwards, during the ring celebration, Elizabeth tried to direct Hogan's attention to Savage, who was sprawled, nearly unconscious, in the corner. Hogan ignored his partner's plight and hugged Elizabeth in the middle of the ring. Savage came to, saw Hogan hugging Elizabeth and gave him a very dirty look.

On "Saturday's Main Event", Hulk Hogan wrestled Akeem. Akeem's partner in crime, and Hogan's main rival right now, The Big Boss Man, came to the ring to double team Hogan. Elizabeth, managing Hogan, went back to the dressing room to get some help, most likely his MegaPower partner, Savage. However Elizabeth came back alone. Elizabeth was handcuffed to the ring and Akeem and Boss Man continued to beat up the Hulkster. Finally, seeing Elizabeth hand-

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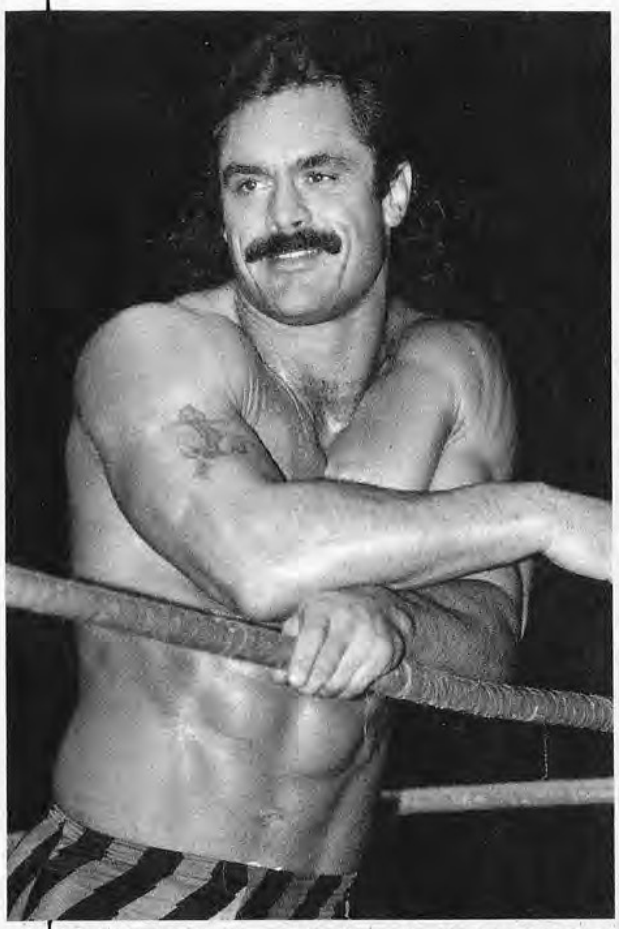

Rick Rude is about to begin to feud with the Ultimate Warrior while Bad News Brown accused Elizabeth of "doing favors" for WWF President, Jack Tunney.

cuffed brought Savage to the ring to save Elizabeth and chase off Akeem, Slick and the Boss Man. After being released, Elizabeth wanted to help the Hulkster but Savage pulled her away and made her go back to the dressing room with him. Apparently Savage's jealousy, when it comes to Elizabeth, has broken up the MegaPowers once and for all, with a long Savage-Hogan feud in the cards for the spring and summer months ahead.

"Rugged" Ron Garvin is in the WWF and feuding with Greg Valentine. "Ravishing" Rick Rude is about to start a feud with The Ultimate Warrior. Demolition and the Powers of Pain are still feuding with each other, this time with a new twist, Demolition are the fan favorites while the Warlord and Barbarian, with their new manager, Mr. Fuji, have become hated once again.

Greg Valentine has finally teamed with his stablemate, the Honky Tonk Man, and it appears as if the duo wants a shot at Demolition's straps. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are having a wild feud with The Rockers. These former Championship tag teams are two of the best in the business and their matches against each other are usually the highlight of any WWF card.

Bad News Brown accused Elizabeth of "doing favors" for Jack Tunney, the WWF President, as a means of preventing Brown from getting World Title shots at Randy Savage. Brown choked down Tunney on nationwide TV and was suspended from the WWF immediately and fined $10,000. Savage demanded the suspension be lifted so that he could get Bad News in the ring. Any claim that Brown had to being undefeated in the WWF (not true) have been wiped out, as Savage has pinned Brown in every match the two have had since the incident with Tunney.

Rick Martel and "Big" John Studd have returned to the WWF. Studd has come back as a fan favorite and is out to get Bobby Heenan and his Family.

Things in the NWA are finally picking up. Ted Turner's organization (and his large bank account) has brought new enthusiasm to the wrestlers, new ideas to the organization and new talent to the NWA. In recent weeks the following newcomers have made their NWA debuts or return: Dustin Rhodes, Kendall Windham, The Commandos, Stephen Casey, Michael P.S. Hayes and the Junkyard Dog. Expected in soon is Butch Reed.

Ric Flair has vowed Lex Luger will get no more shots at his World Championship belt. He made this statement immediately following his bout with Luger at Starrcade where he barely escaped with his belt. The World Champion never used to be able to pick and choose his opponents in the NWA, they were decided by the promoters in charge, yet, Flair still insists Luger will receive no more title shots. Of course, the fans can demand Lex be given more Championship matches, and if their voices are loud enough, can force Flair to wrestle "The Total Package" once again.

With the Varsity Club holding the U.S. Tag Team Titles, after their victory over the Fantastics at Starrcade, does this mean all three members, Steve Williams, Kevin Sullivan and Mike Rotunda, can defend

Dustin Rhodes is part of the new NWA tag team, The Texas Broncos.

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those belts?? Or are Williams and Sullivan, the two men who won the match, the only men who can defend the titles? The Freebirds, in their heyday, used this to their advantage as any of the three men could defend any Championship the Freebirds won and only they knew who would defend the titles until the bell rang to start a match. This tactic puts opponents at a disadvantage as they are unable to train properly if their opponents are not known until the bell rings to start a match.

The wild feud between the two teams of Midnight Express, Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane vs. Randy Rose and Dennis Condrey, is really heating up as the two managers, Paul E. Dangerously and Jim Cornette, get more involved in the matches. Paul and Jim can't stand the sight of each other and have vowed to end each others' careers and claim the "Midnight Express" name for his team.

The AWA's SuperClash III was an artistic success and proved that the organization can put on a top notch wrestling show. Badd Company and their manager, Diamond Dallas Page, suffered the indignity of seeing another team, Derrick Dukes and Ricky Rice, raising their title straps in the air, however, it was a mistake and the belts were given back to Badd Company in the dressing room.

When the Iron Sheik attacked Sgt. Slaughter during his "Boot Camp" match against Col. DeBeers, it resumed their old rivalry from the WWF. Now, the Sheik and his AWA manager, Adnan Al-Kaissey, have promised the wrestling world they will eliminate Slaughter once and for all.

Manny Fernandez and Wahoo McDaniel continue to feud. Wahoo has vowed the feud with Fernandez will not end until he sees Fernandez dead!!

Don Muraco has made some appearances in the AWA recently. Ron Garvin has left the AWA after losing the AWA International TV Title back to Greg Gagne.

The WCCW has seen a lot of new talent come into Texas since Jarrett Promotions took over the promotion in November. Most of the new talent has come in from Jarrett Promotions' Memphis area promotion. New to Texas in recent weeks included: "Cactus" Jack Manson, "Gorgeous" Gary Young, Sid Vicious, Brickhouse Brown, Kamala and others

Sgt. Slaughter has staff writer, Joel Eisenberg, trapped in the Cobra Clutch.

are expected in. With all the new talent in the area, crowds are picking up and there is talk of having a big WCCW show in Reunion Arena in March. The WCCW hasn't had a show in Dallas' largest arena since Christmas night, 1987. Many fans will remember that night because the Freebirds returned to World Class and attacked and severely injured Fritz Von Erich.

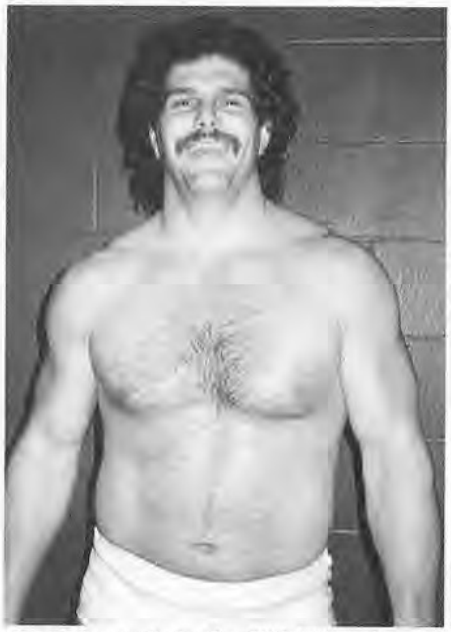
Scandor Akbar has put a $50,000 bounty on the head of Eric Embry. Akbar feels betrayed because Embry left "Devastation Inc." to join forces with the Von Erichs. Akbar has even gotten into the ring himself to do battle with the Flamboyant one.

The Samoan Swat Team is feuding with Kamala and the Botswana Beast for the WCCW World Tag Titles. The fans are siding with the S.S.T.'s this time.

Since Michael Hayes left the WCCW for the NWA, his former partner, Steve "Do it, to it" Cox, has renewed a feud, left over from his UWF days, with Gary Young. For those of you who don't remember, Young and Cox feuded over who was the "UWF Rookie of the Year". Cox won the award and Young, who had been in wrestling for many years, claimed he was the award winner and stole the trophy from Cox. This is the first time the two men have been in the same area since then and their hatred for each other is still as intense as it was then.

Ron Garvin won the WWC Universal Title, which was vacant, by defeating Carlos Colon in the tournament final match on Thanksgiving night in Carolina, P.R. Garvin, who was a fan favorite in Puerto Rico until this night ended, won by faking a leg injury after he leap-frogged Colon. As Colon was giving Garvin time to recover, Garvin used the "Hands of Stone" punch (possibly with the aid of brass knuckles) to kayo and pin Colon and take the belt. Chicky Starr, the most hated wrestler in Puerto Rico, came to the ring to congratulate Garvin and they went back to the villain's dressing room arm in arm, as the crowd threw garbage at them.

Jason the Terrible came to Puerto Rico and defeated T.N.T. to win the Carribean Title. The Batten Twins have been defending the WWC World Tag Team Championships recently against "Dandy" Dan Kroffat and Islander Tama.



Gary Young is in the WCCW and resuming an old feud with Steve Cox.

"Hangman" Bobby Jaggers, the Puerto Rican Heavyweight Champion, is feuding with Ricky Santana. "Rambo" Ron Starr is feuding with his ex-Championship tag team partner, and his "distant cousin", Chicky Starr. Those two broke up after Ron Starr was pinned and lost the World Tag Belts back to the Battens. Each blames the other for the loss of the titles.

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Miguelito Perez and Hurricane Castillo, Jr. are the Carribean Tag Champs and are feuding with Dr. Death and Mr. Pogo. Invader #3 is the WWC Jr. Heavyweight Champion and is feuding with El Profe. Carlos Colon is the TV Champion and is still feuding with Hercules Ayala.

Sid Vicious is the CWA Champion in Memphis. He beat rookie Brian Lee for the belt on TV by using a foreign object in his knee brace.

After unifying the AWA and WCCW World Belts, Jerry Lawler wanted to take a few weeks off. Dutch Mantell came to ringside to challenge the new "undisputed" World Champion to a match. Lawler ignored Mantell, who pushed "the King" then slapped him in the face. Lawler still refused to accept the challenge, so, finally, Mantell spit tobacco juice in Lawler's face and Lawler then agreed to a non-title match with Mantell. In that match, Dutch Mantell defeated Jerry Lawler by using a chain and earned himself a title match which was held in conjunction with the Liberty Bowl football game.

A new team called the Beauty and the Beast are feuding with Jeff Jarrett and Tracy Smothers. The Beauty, who looks a lot like Jimmy Garvin but isn't, had an "interest" in Tracy Smothers and asked him to join their team so they could go out and eat together. Smothers turned him down and was attacked by the two men, who painted Smothers' face with make-up.

Jimmy Golden & Robert Fuller, the Southern Tag Team Champions, are feuding with Wendall Cooley. They recently attacked him with Sylvia's kendo stick and tried to break his arm. A lot of the WCCW regulars such as "Iceman" Parsons, Eric Embry, Michael Hayes, Steve Cox and others have started to appear regularly in Tennessee. Others wrestling for the CWA include: Ricky and Todd Morton, Bill Dundee, Phil Hickerson, Scott Steiner, Don Bass and the RPM's.

Dr. Tom Prichard is still the CWF Champion, however, his number challenger is another fan favorite, Brad Armstrong. Prichard has been a villain in the past, but in recent years has reformed. It is said a Champion will do anything to keep his belt and Prichard certainly knows every dirty trick in the book, so it will be interesting, to see what happens if Armstrong and the Doctor square off with each other for the CWF Title. "Mr. Perfect" Jerry Stubbs and the Dirty White Boy hold the CWF Tag Team Championships. They are feuding with the Bullet and Brad Armstrong for the belts.

Wendall Cooley is feuding with the Stud's Stable in the CWA.

Buddy Landell returned to the area and on Thanksgiving night in Knoxville, Tenn., he attacked Doug Furnas to start a feud.

Others wrestling in the CWF include: "Nightmare" Danny Davis, who ran Ken Wayne out of the CWF, Johnny & Davey Rich, Willie B. Hert, Black Bart, Mr. Alan Martin, Kokina and Detroit Demolition.

The WWA International Special is a card to look forward to in Kansas City in February. This card is considered to be the biggest event in Kansas City wrestling in several years as many greats from around the world are coming to the area for this one card, which will be broadcast back to Japan. In the main event, Terry Gordy and Stan Hansen will wrestle Jumbo Tsuruta and Yoshiaki Yatsu, both from Japan. Kerry Von Erich will face Akio Sato, Dory and Terry Funk will square off against Doug Somers and Gary Young, WWA World Champion, Mike George will defend his belt against Steve Ray, "Wild" Bill Irwin will meet Genichiru Tenryu, the great Japanese Champion and, for the first time ever, the British Bulldogs will meet the Rock 'N' Roll Express.

Others wrestling for the WWA recently included: Dave (D.J.) Peterson, T.C. Carter, Curtis Hughes, Tommy Sharpe, Derrick Dukes and Rick McCord.

Top Gun is the new Pacific Northwest Heavyweight Champion, He defeated the Grappler, who went to Japan and defeated Dragon Fujinami by a count out to regain the strap.

As of press time, the NW Tag Belts are being held up following a disputed decision in a match between the Southern Rockers and Abudadian and the Grappler.

The NWA joined forces with Owens Promotions to present a big card of wrestling on January 12th. In addition to all the Northwest regulars, Ric Flair, Sting, the Road Warriors, Rick Steiner, Dusty Rhodes, Dick Murdoch, the Junkyard Dog, Ivan Koloff and the Commandos all appeared on the card.

Others appearing in the great Northwest for Owens Promotions include: Art Crews, Art Barr, "Turncoat" Al Madrill, King Matthew Borne, Buddy Rose, Golden Boy Golden and Col. DeBeers.

Less than a month after leaving the WWF, both the British Bulldogs and Don Muraco won the major titles in Stampede wrestling. On December 7, the British Bulldogs defeated the Cuban Commandos, Jerry Morrow and the Cuban Assassin, to win the International Tag Team Championships in a cage in Calgary. Two nights later, in Medicine Hat, Don Muraco defeated Makhan Singh to win the North American Heavyweight Championship.

A newcomer to Stampede is Larry Cameron, who most recently wrestled for

Brad Armstrong is the #1 contender for Dr. Tom Prichard's CWF Title.

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Windy City Wrestling in Chicago. Johnny Smith and Chris Benoit are still feuding over the Commonwealth Championship Belt. Others appearing in Stampede in recent weeks included: Leo Burke, Steve DiSalvo, Rip Rogers, Vinnie Valentino, Biff Wellington, Gary Allbright.

In Independent action, Trans World Wrestling ran a big card for Multiple Sclerosis in White Plains, N.Y. recently. Featured on the card were guest managerial appearances by Bruno Sammartino and Capt. Lou Albano as well as wrestlers such as Johnny Valiant, David Sammartino, Davey O'Hannon, Dominic DeNucci, Johnny Rodz, the Tonga Kid (a.k.a. Tama), Wild Samoan Afa, Yukon Jack, the Masked Scorpions and Sgt. Slaughter faced off against old enemy, the Iron Sheik in the main event.

Fans in Brooklyn, N.Y. should be aware of the monthly wrestling cards held at Gleason's Gym under the Brooklyn Bridge. The cards feature such wrestlers as Johnny Rodz, Mando Kleen, The Power Twins (a.k.a. The Twin Towers), Bialo the Giant and many young wrestlers just starting out in the business. The shows are taped for TV (seen on Channel 44) and are drawing big crowds to the Gym.

Atlantic Coast Wrestling is a new promotion, run by Nelson Royal, that is making big strides in Virginia, Georgia and the Carolinas. This promotion is a regional promotion, similar to what Mid-Atlantic Wrestling used to be before Jim Crockett tried to take that promotion national. The new promotion has a big television network and is hoping to become a major force in wrestling in 1989. Men who are wrestling for this promotion include: The Rock 'N' Roll Express, Buddy Landell, Mitch Snow, the Mod Squad, the Deaton Brothers, Tommy Angel and Scott and Brad Armstrong. Nikita Koloff, as well as many of the NWA current roster are rumored to be coming here.

Florida Championship Wrestling continues to grow. The Terminator is the Florida Heavyweight Champion and is feuding with Steve Keirn and U.S. Steele. The Nasty Boys are the Florida Tag Team Champions and are feuding with the Star Riders. Al Perez wrestled here for a couple of weeks early in December. Other men who have wrestled here recently include: Scotty the Body, Brett Sawyer, Jim Backlund, Mark Starr, Brady Boone, Lou Perez, Mike Graham and Carl Styles. This is the promotion where Dustin Rhodes (now part of the Texas Broncos tag team in the NWA) got his start.

The Iron Sheik has resumed his feud with Sgt. Slaughter.

Windy City Wrestling is now on Sportsvision Cable TV in Chicago and the new exposure should help build interest in the promotion which was doing well, even without television. Steve Regal is the Windy City Heavyweight Champion and no longer a fan favorite. He is feuding with the Mighty Thor. The Terminators, Riggs and Wolf, are the new Tag Team Champions, after beating Paul E. Dangerously's "Original" Midnight Express in October. "Awesome" Ondy Austin is the WCW Ladies Champion. Others seen in Chicago include: The Beach Boys, the Tokyo Bullets, newcomer Dave Kasper, former national power-lifting champion, Tarzan, Frank "the Tank" Melson and the Twin Turbo.

Great Lakes Wrestling Association in Ohio features the following wrestlers: North American Champion, Psycho Mike, Jr. Heavyweight Champion, Pedro Torres, Vladimir Markov, the Demon of Darkness, the Mercenary, the Fabulous Moolah, Sheena the Voodoo Queen, Silver Rose and Candi Divine.

The Midwest Wrestling Alliance is based in Missouri and features new, unknown talent. Some of the men who wrestle here include: Rob Dustry, Bama, the Sabbaths, Kerry "the Rebel" Lee, the Kansas City Cowboy, T.C. Rocannon, Scott Hasting, Mr. Fantasy, Little John, Johnny Ramirez, Bull Branigan, the Vigilante, "Bounty Hunter" Brad Seger and the ladies, Nanie Reed and Natasha Kizhoff. Of that list, Kerry Lee, T.C. Rocannon, the Vigilante and Scott Hasting are said to have what it takes to become top stars in the sport.

Besides wrestling for the WCCW, Chris Adams is running his own promotion in the Southwest. Some of the wrestlers appearing on his shows include: Percy Pringle (who even wrestled a High School Principal recently!), Jeff Gaylord, Arman Hussein, Tom Jones, Johnny Mantell, Dusty Wolfe, Tony Atlas, Tio and Tapu, the Samoans, the Super Destroyer, "Wild" Bill Irwin, Lady Fantasy and the adorable Missy Hyatt (who will soon be seen as a commentator on WTBS).

All-Star California Championship Wrestling is running shows in Southern California with good success. Chavo, Mando and Hector Guerrero are the top stars here. Other men in the area include: Victor Rivera, Chief Jay Strongbow, Jr., Steve Strong, Tiger Chung Lee, the Iron Sheik, Great Goliath, Tony Rocco, Carlos Mata and "Wildman" Jack Armstrong.

A new promotion has opened in the Pacific Northwest. It is called the Pacific Coast Wrestling Alliance. Men who have signed up to wrestle for this organization include: "Mean" Mike Miller, Brian Adams, Cocoa Samoa, Tiger Chung Lee, Billy Two Eagles, Ole Oleson, Rocky Dellaserra, "Vicious" Verne Seibert, Joey Jackson, Moondog Moretti, Buddy Wayne and the Riot Maker. Others who may be appearing soon include: "Diamond" Timothy Flowers, Neil Drummond and Rick Davis.

Finally, we would like to make our readers aware of the two radio shows that are devoted to wrestling. At 8AM every Saturday morning, WIP-AM in Philadelphia (610 on the dial) presents "Rasslin Radio", hosted by Joel Goodhart. This show has special in-studio guests, up-to-date news and results and comments from listeners. The show can be heard in Northern Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and lower New York State.

The other show is on WFAN Sports Radio 66 in New York City at 3AM on Saturday and Sunday mornings. It is hosted by Rich Mancuso and can be heard in 38 states and parts of Canada. It also has the most recent information and results and listener's comments. ■

PHOTOS BY STEVE STOGDALE, DEBRA MOSER and JOSH GREGORY

THE 2ND ANNUAL WME WORLDWIDE FAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The votes are in, your verdicts have been declared. Here are the winners of the 2nd Annual WME Worldwide Fan Achievement Awards.

By SANDY KREBS and STEVE PFEFFER

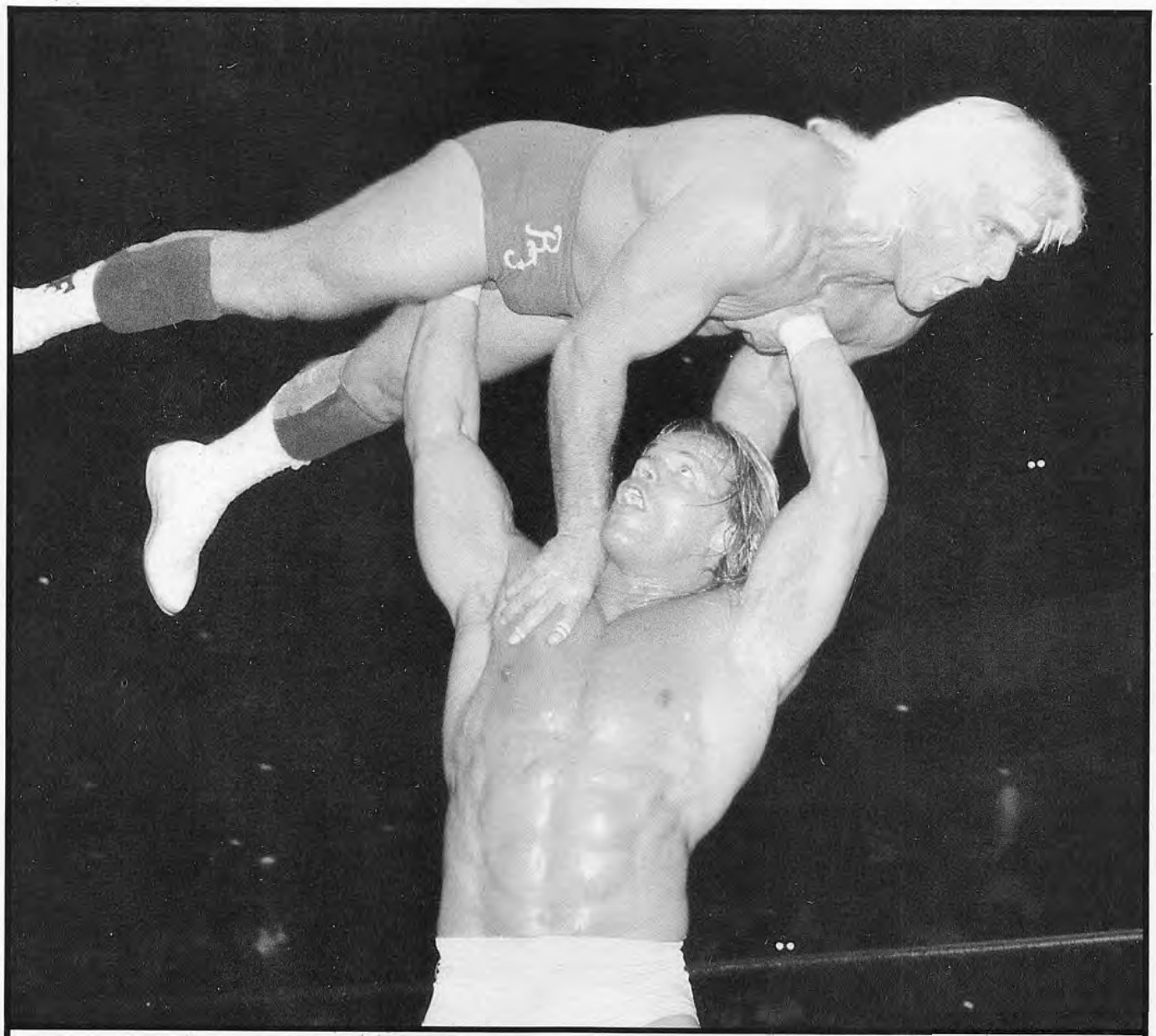
The fans have spoken. Over 18,200 fans made their choices in the 2nd annual WME Worldwide Fan Achievement Awards. This vote tally is less than last year's total vote, however, this year we cracked down on rulebreaking fans who stuffed the ballot box, thus allowing your favorites to win, nice try, but it didn't work (you readers know who you are!!).

We will start with this year's winner of ROOKIE OF THE YEAR. This category was new to the poll this year and the hardest for you readers to vote correctly on. A rookie is a wrestler who has been in the sport for two years or less. Many of you voted for wrestlers such as Sting, Lex Luger, the Ultimate Warrior and Terry Taylor, men who were not eligible in this category. However, we did receive a representative number of votes that were eligible to be counted. The surprise winner was The Blue Blazer, a man new to the WWF and a wrestler who has yet to become part of the WWF "limelight". Lots of fans know just who this masked wrestler really is and based on the talent he has shown, albeit against limited opposition, those astute fans felt he deserved this honor. The Blazer received 2,204 votes. A surprise second was former AWA World Women's Champion, Madusa Miceli. Madusa accomplished so much in such a short period of time that a lot of fans (WME included) forgot she was still a rookie in the sport. A late run of votes, too late to catch the Blazer, assured Madusa of finishing second in the balloting with 1,242 votes. Finishing third was Stephen Casey from the WCCW who earned 1,033 votes and fourth in the category this year was Ricky Rice of the Top Guns who received 749 votes. The WCCW had it's best showing in this category as Steve "Do it, to it" Cox finished fifth with 517 votes. With all the up-and-coming young stars in the WCCW it appears that organization will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

Literally hundreds of matches were selected by the voters for MATCH OF THE YEAR. The overwhelming winner of this category was the match at "The Great American Bash—The Price for Freedom" between Lex Luger and Ric Flair. This bout was seen on pay-per-view TV and was the match where Luger very nearly became the NWA World's

PHOTOS BY DEBRA MOSER, JOHN BARRETT and JOE ZANOLLE

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
1. THE BLUE BLAZER 2,204
2. MADUSA MICELI 1,242
3. STEPHEN CASEY 1,033
4. RICKY RICE 749



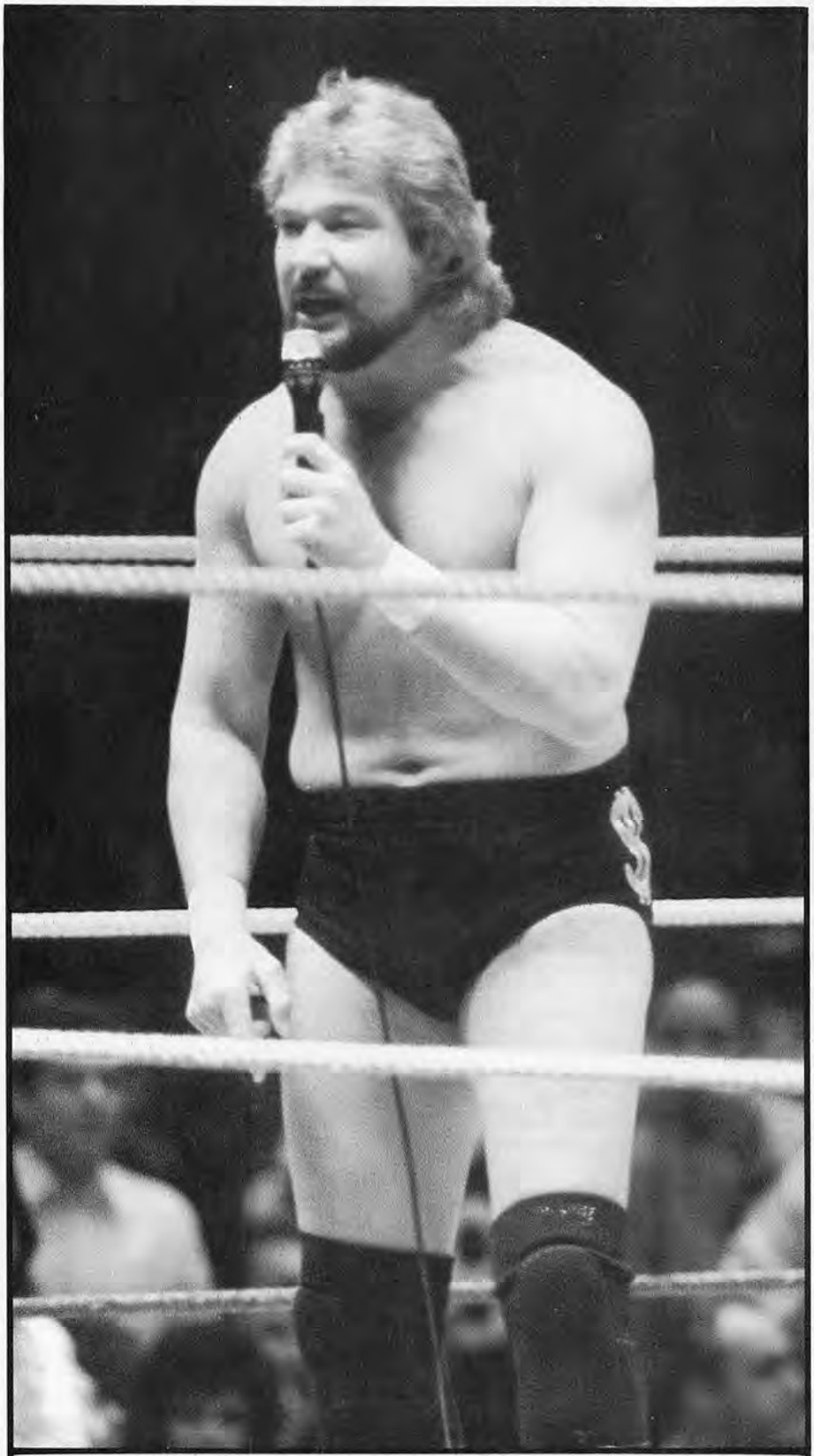
MATCH OF THE YEAR

1. RIC FLAIR VS. LEX LUGER (BALTIMORE BASH) 4,390
2. RIC FLAIR VS. STING (CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS) 1,608
3. MEGAPOWERS VS. MEGABUCKS (SUMMERSLAM '88) 1,555
4. RANDY SAVAGE VS. TED DiBIASE (WRESTLEMANIA IV) 1,249

Heavyweight Champion. The Maryland State Athletic Commission stopped the bout, while Lex had Ric helpless in the "Human Torture Rack", because Lex was bleeding slightly from a cut above his eye. Most fans were outraged by the final decision, however, never seeing the World Champion in such a helpless condition probably made this match the most memorable one of 1988. The bout received 4,390 votes, nearly three times as many votes as the second place finisher, the bout between Sting and Ric Flair at the first "Clash of the Champions". This bout was a exhibition of wrestling at it's best as two of the finest athletes in the world fought to a 45 minute draw on nationwide TV. The bout garnered 1,608 votes from readers worldwide. Finishing third was the match between the MegaPowers and MegaBucks held at "SummerSlam '88" in Madison Square Garden, this match received 1,555 votes. The final match of our highlighted top four was the tournament final match for the WWF World Heavyweight Championship, held during Wrestlemania IV, between Randy Savage and Ted DiBiase. This match received 1,249 votes. Several other top matches received your votes, these included: Barry Windham vs. Dusty Rhodes in Baltimore, the match where the Ultimate Warrior won the WWF I-C Title from the Honky Tonk Man, Makhan Singh winning the North American Title from Owen Hart in Canada and Owen Hart wrestling Japanese star Shiro Koshinaka in Tokyo, Japan.

The MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR category was really no contest. From start to finish the leader was "The Million Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase. DiBiase truly deserves this "honor". From trying to buy the WWF Title, to hiring the twin referee to cost Hulk Hogan the Championship in Indianapolis, to trying to buy Hercules as a slave, not to mention the total lack of regard he has for the fans earned DiBiase his award. DiBiase received 3,454 votes from the readers, outdistancing the second place finisher, NWA World Heavyweight Champion, Ric Flair, who

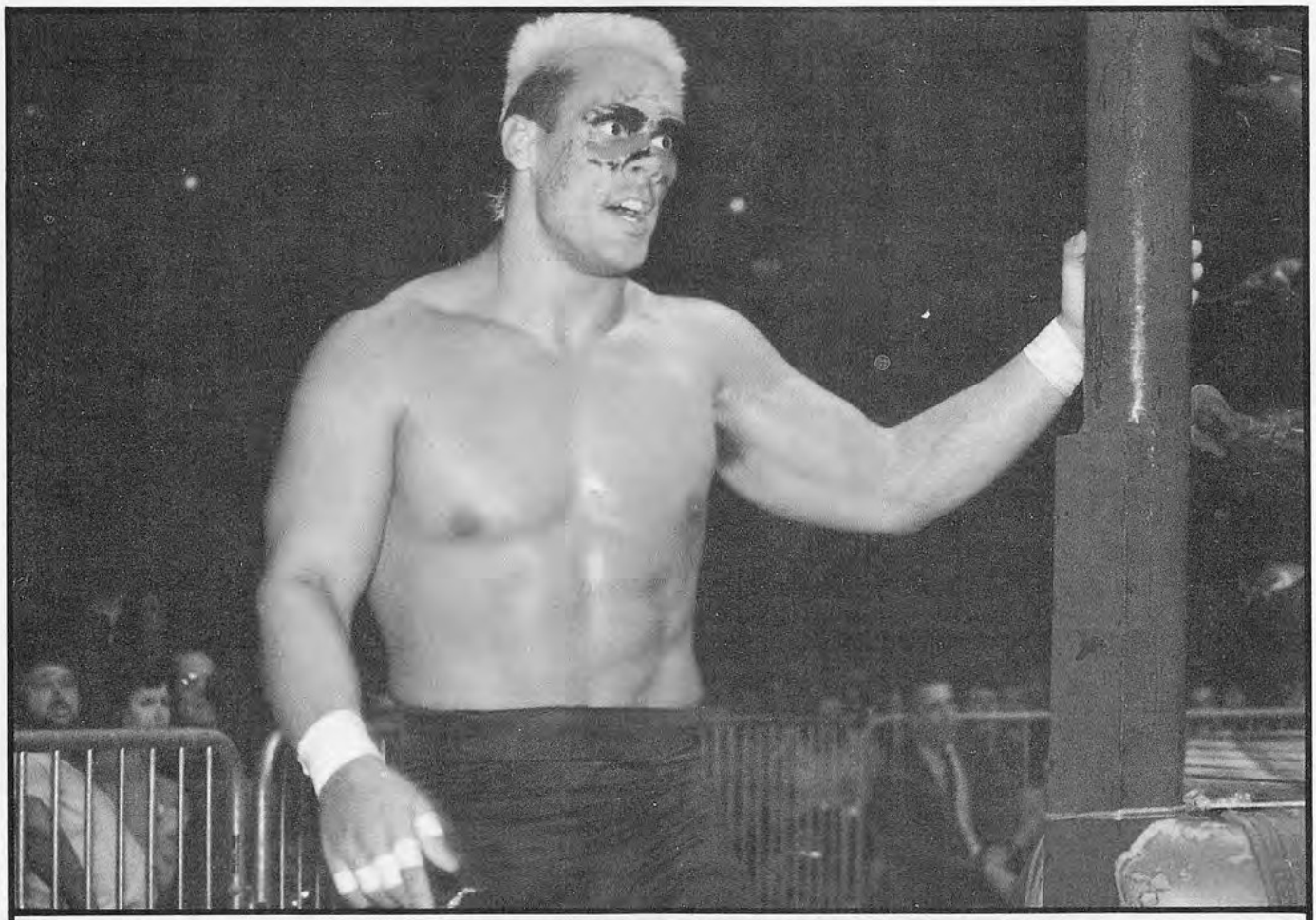
received 2,588. Flair won this award last year, however, it seems those who voted for him last year may have switched their allegiance to the Champion's new friend, Barry Windham, who stabbed his friend Lex Luger in the back (not to mention betraying all his fans) on April 20th in Jacksonville, Fla., costing his team the World Tag Team Titles and later, joining the Horsemen. Barry received 2,113 votes to finish third. Finishing fourth was Kevin Sullivan, a truly despicable wrestler who alienated fans by trying to take Precious away from Jimmy Garvin for most of the year, breaking Garvin's leg on nationwide TV and mistreating poor Rick Steiner, one-time member of the Varsity Club. Kevin received 1,954 votes.



MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
1. TED DiBIASE 3,454
2. RIC FLAIR 2,588
3. BARRY WINDHAM 2,113
4. KEVIN SULLIVAN 1,954

The MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR is none other than Sting, wrestling's newest star. Sting came out of nowhere this year to become the NWA fan's favorite wrestler and a top star. His matches with Ric Flair and Barry Windham did a lot to cement his popularity with the fans, as did the despicable attack by the Road Warriors as seen on television in October. Winning the Crockett Cup with his friend, Lex Luger, by defeating Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson in the final match, just added to Sting's ever growing popularity. Sting received 3,462½ votes and was in first place from the first day we received votes. Finishing second was last year's winner, Hulk Hogan. The Hulkster probably handicapped himself in this category by taking most of the summer off and really not wrestling full-time the rest of the year. As the end of the year grew closer, Hogan got involved in a feud with The Big Boss Man and came out of hibernation and his fans got out the votes, however, it was too late to catch the Stinger who was already well ahead. Hulk Hogan finished with 2,458½ votes. Finishing third was Sting's best friend in the NWA, Lex Luger. Luger left the Horsemen late last year and his popularity grew by leaps and bounds throughout the year. His latest feud with the hated Flair only made him more popular. He received 2,209½ votes. Finishing fourth was the WWF World Heavyweight Champion, Randy "Macho Man" Savage. We consider it a surprise that he finished so low in the polls, as we expected him to either win or finish second. In the early balloting, he was close to the top, but as Hogan got more involved in the WWF activities, Savage received less votes and Hogan regained his place at the top of the WWF popularity charts. Savage received 2,155½ votes. Finishing fifth in the poll was Dusty Rhodes with 907 votes and finishing a surprising sixth was the man who finished second in the MOST HATED balloting, Ric Flair, with 875 votes.

Sting also won the MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR award. We can find no more deserving wrestler for this award than the Stinger. Truly, of all the men in the sport today, he showed the most improvement. Classified as a brawler, Sting added more scientific and aerial holds to his repertoire, such as the "Scorpion Death Lock" and the "Kamikaze Dive", and with those



MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
1. STING 3,462½
2. HULK HOGAN 2,458½
3. LEX LUGER 2,209½
4. RANDY SAVAGE 2,155½

holds, became a legitimate Championship contender in 1988. Sting won the honor easily, receiving 2,563 votes. Finishing second was Barry Windham. I believe he finished so high because all the Horsemen fans, who hated Barry when he was a "fan favorite", suddenly looked on him in a new light as a rulebreaker. In fact, Barry's new aggressiveness took him to the NWA U.S. Championship, a title he never held as a fan favorite. Barry received 2,114 votes. Finishing third was The Ultimate Warrior. A man lacking any wrestling skill at all, the Warrior received most of his votes for devastating the Honky Tonk Man and winning the WWF Inter-Continental Title during the "SummerSlam '88" pay-per-view show. Warrior received 1, 973 votes. Finishing fourth was last year's winner of this award, Lex Luger, who received 1,408 votes. Lex's wrestling skill improved tremendously as the year went on and now he is capable of being the World Champion. Randy Savage was the fifth place finisher with 1,118 votes.

Our next three categories had the closest finishes of any award balloting in

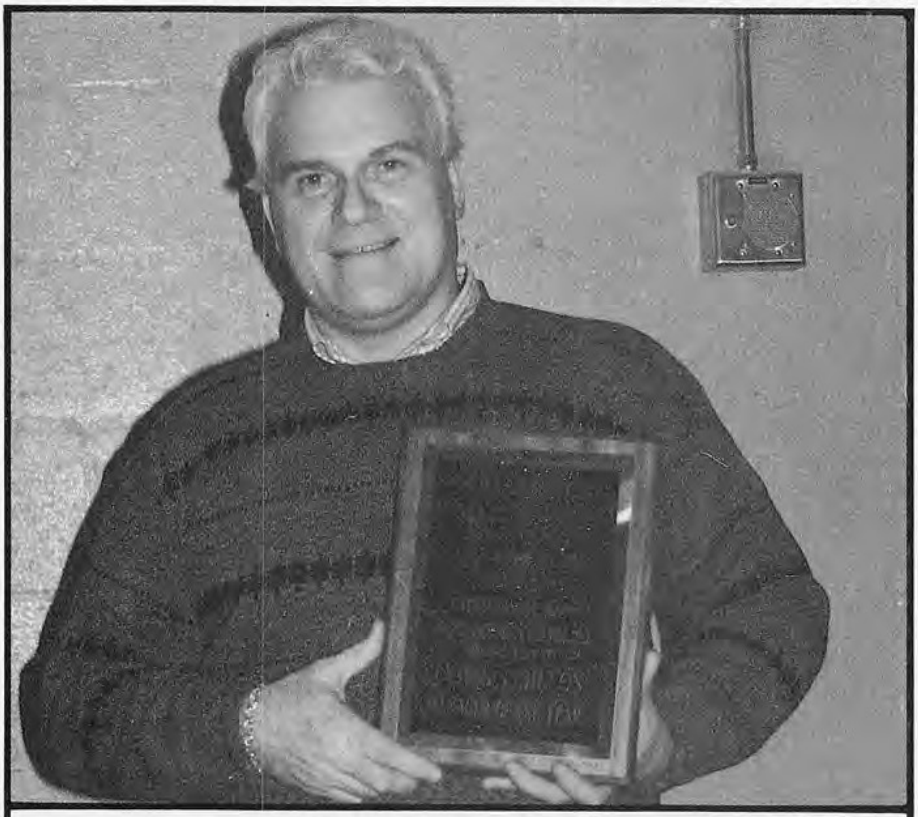
MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
1. STING 2,563
2. BARRY WINDHAM 2,114
3. THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR 1,973
4. LEX LUGER 1,408

any magazine in any year we can remember. First, a look at MANAGER OF THE YEAR, where James J. Dillon, the manager of the Four Horsemen, prevailed by thirty votes. His men were Champions all year long and he filled the holes caused by defections from his camp well, most notably Barry Windham replacing Lex Luger. When it comes to strategy, no one can top J.J. and he is not afraid to interfere in a match to keep his men on top. J.J. Dillon is truly deserving of this year's award, he received 3,816 votes. Finishing second was the manager of the MegaPowers, the lovely Elizabeth. Elizabeth took her man, Randy Savage, to the WWF World Championship and, later on in the summer, agreed to manage Hulk Hogan as well. Managing the two most popular men in the WWF was the main reason why she finished so high in the poll. Next year may be a different story as it seems jealousy is destroying the MegaPowers and Liz will have to make a hard choice on which man to manage in the near future. She received 3,785½ votes. The third place finisher was Jim Cornette, who kept his team of Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton at the top of the sport almost the entire year. They are the longest reigning NWA U.S. Tag Team Champions ever (holding those belts for over a year), and also ran Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson out of the NWA when they took the World Belts from them last September in Philadelphia. The Express derailed in New Orleans against the Road Warriors, but, they are back on track, this time as fan favorites, in an attempt to thwart Paul E. Dangerously and *his* Midnight Express. Cornette rang up 2,604 votes. Finishing fourth was "Precious" Paul Ellering, last year's winner, who gathered 2,577½ votes. For some reason, Bobby Heenan, who has been an abject failure in the WWF, finished fifth with 1,211 votes.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR
1. ELIZABETH 4,045
2. MADUSA MICELI 3,998½
3. PRECIOUS 1,826
4. WENDI RICHTER 1,633

Another close vote was for WOMAN OF THE YEAR. The lovely Elizabeth won this award by forty-seven votes over a surprising second place finisher, Madusa Miceli, former AWA World Women's Champion. Even though she stripped off her dress to distract the MegaBucks at "SummerSlam '88", Elizabeth conducted herself with poise and dignity throughout the year and earned everyone's respect. She received 4,045 votes to win her award. Madusa finished a surprising second. The fans who voted for her did so because they felt she brought dignity and respect back to women's wrestling. She also held her Championship for almost the entire year, before losing to Wendi Richter on November 26th. She received 3,998½ votes. Finishing third was Precious, who fought off the romantic overtures made by Kevin Sullivan and stayed with her man, Jimmy Garvin. Precious received 1,826 votes and fifth was Misty Blue Simms, NWA World Women's Champion, who received 1,240 votes.

In our closest vote, and quite possibly the closest vote of all-time, the TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR award went down to the final day as the Road Warriors and the Midnight Express fought it out to the end. As they did in



MANAGER OF THE YEAR
1. JAMES J. DILLON 3,816
2. ELIZABETH 3,785½
3. JIM CORNETTE 2,604
4. "PRECIOUS" PAUL ELLERING 2,577½

New Orleans, the Road Warriors prevailed. In fact, it was probably because they won the NWA World Belts in New Orleans that they won this award. Before the title change the Midnight Express looked like an easy winner, however, Animal and Hawk made up a lot of ground fast and won this award on the final day of voting. The Road Warriors won with 4,587 votes, finishing just 15 votes ahead of the Midnight Express who received 4,572 votes. The third place finishers were the Fantastics, former NWA U.S. Champions, who received 1,135 votes. Finishing fourth was Demolition, the current WWF World Champions, with 1,108 votes. Finishing fifth, just six votes behind Demolition, were their arch-rivals, the Powers of Pain, with 1,102 votes.

Truly this was one year where your vote really counted. The close decision in three major categories showed that voting *was* important. This year we received votes from all over the United States, Canada came through this year with a lot more votes than last year and we also received several hundred votes from Europe. The staff at WME would like to thank everyone who took the time out to vote in the 2nd Annual WME Worldwide Fan Achievement Awards and for making it the giant success it was. ■

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR
1. THE ROAD WARRIORS 4,587
2. MIDNIGHT EXPRESS 4,572
3. THE FANTASTICS 1,136
4. DEMOLITION 1,108

THE BELT on Archive.org

THE WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
RIC FLAIR

Thirty-three wrestlers received votes in the 2nd Annual WME Worldwide Fan Achievement Awards in the category of WRESTLER OF THE YEAR. However, for the second year in a row, one man stands head and shoulders above all other athletes in this sport. He is the NWA World Heavyweight Champion, Ric Flair. As the man says, "Whether you like me or you don't, you better learn to love me, because I'm the best thing going today, Whoo!!" Congratulations, Champ, on winning this prestigious award for the second consecutive year.

By SANDY KREBS

The fans hate Ric Flair, but, they respect him for his ability in the ring, as well as his showmanship and flamboyance outside the ring. They despise his tactics and his lack of humility, yet 4,808 readers of WME voted for Ric Flair as the WRESTLER OF THE YEAR in the 2nd Annual WME Worldwide Fan Achievement Awards. Most fans love Lex Luger and Sting yet these same fans admire the fact that Ric Flair was able to hold these two gentlemen off this year and keep the NWA World Heavyweight Championship in his grasp for the entire year. For the past several years in the NWA the word "wrestling" means Ric Flair, he is the symbol of what NWA Professional Wrestling is supposed to be all about. He is a man who takes great pride in his sport and his position in it. He takes great pride in the Championship belt he straps around his waist each and every night and will do anything he has to do in the ring to make sure he keeps it.

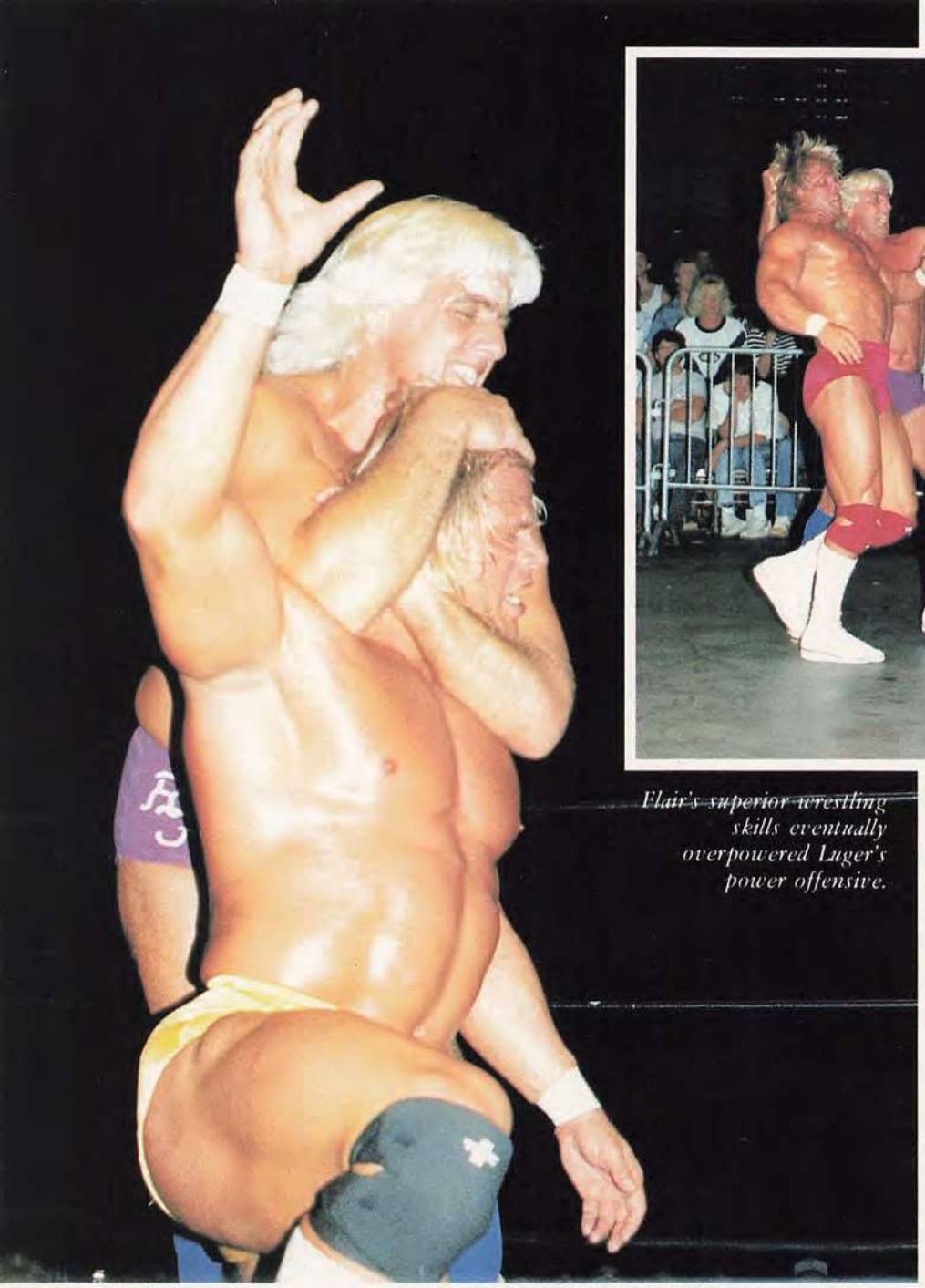
For the second half of 1988, Ric Flair feuded almost exclusively with Lex Luger.

Sting was Flair's main nemesis throughout the first half of 1988.

Ric Flair is the centerpiece of the dreaded Four Horsemen, once the most "Elite" force in wrestling, now decimated by the defection of Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson to the WWF. He, along with James J. Dillon, his manager and advisor, are the only original members left of the "Elite" force. When Lex Luger defected over to the fan favorites, it was Ric Flair who recommended the name "Barry Windham" to James J. Dillon as a suitable replacement. Flair is an astute judge of talent, he knows what makes a wrestler great, he knows what a wrestler needs to be a Champion. After wrestling Windham for years, he knew Barry Windham had what it takes to be a Horseman and a Champion. And now, just as Flair is the World Champion, Barry Windham, the remaining member of the Four Horsemen, is the NWA U.S. Champion.

Fans always complain that Ric Flair never wins a match. However, he never loses a match either. As Champion of the World, he has every right to take advantage of the "Champion's Advantage" and in the NWA that advantage is that the belt is lost only if the Champion is pinned or submits. When the going gets tough, many say, Ric Flair takes the easy way out, by getting himself

PHOTOS BY DEBRA MOSER and JOE ZANOLLE



Flair's superior wrestling skills eventually overpowered Luger's power offensive.

disqualified. But, in this case, a loss is still a win and the loser is still the Champion of the World and he gets the big paycheck he deserves to support the lifestyle he lives.

1988 will go down in the annals as Ric Flair's most challenging year. In the NWA, a promotion that has been chaotic to say the least, Flair has been a symbol of stability. He has met challengers such as Steve Williams, Sting, Lex Luger, Nikita Koloff, Rick Steiner and Dusty Rhodes, his old rival, and walked away with the Championship belt still around his waist. The rivals are getting younger, stronger and more athletic yet, the canny Champion still prevails.

Ric Flair was seen by more fans this year than have probably ever seen him before in his career as the NWA expanded their coverage to live, nationwide TV and pay-per-view shows. What these fans saw was the consummate wrestling machine. A man who could wrestle a 45 minute time limit draw with Sting at the "Clash of the Champions", a match which will go down as probably one of the greatest of all-time. He could also handle the power moves of a Lex Luger and hand him a tainted 25 minute defeat, due to a State Athletic Commission decision to halt the match because of Luger's slight trickle of blood. In the following match ups with Luger, Flair more than held his own, although he has been unable to defeat the blond giant. Then, as a special treat, TV fans were able to see Flair in a tag team match, as he and his partner, Barry Windham, defeated the Midnight Express, Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton, who may be the sport's best tag team.

More people are beginning to recognize and appreciate the talent Ric Flair is. Besides being the WRESTLER OF THE YEAR, he also won MATCH OF THE YEAR, finished second in the MOST HATED category and this "hated" wrestler finished sixth in the MOST POPULAR category. At arenas all around the country, when the first notes of "2001: A Space Odyssey" ring out over the loudspeakers, a large segment of the crowd immediately rises to their feet and gives the Champion a standing ovation. Watching Ric Flair wrestle is an event a smart wrestling fan does not want to miss, because unlike the rest of the NWA wrestling stable, he does not appear in every city each and every month. His busy schedule prevents him from doing so, so each and every time Ric Flair appears on the NWA wrestling card, it is a special event. More often than not, the Champion gives the crowd it's money's worth. He is truly deserving of the honor "WRESTLER OF THE YEAR".

Finishing second to Ric Flair this year was the WWF World Heavyweight Champion, Randy Savage. Savage's popularity continued to rise as he defended his title against such men as: Ted DiBiase, Akeem/One Man Gang, Andre the Giant and Bad News Brown. The fans also appreciated him defending the honor of his manageress, the lovely Elizabeth, against verbal assaults by Bad News Brown and from physical assaults by DiBiase and his bodyguard, Virgil. Savage proved to be a good Champion, however, a fly in the ointment is appearing. Savage's jealousy when it comes to Elizabeth is affecting his relationship with his MegaPower partner, Hulk Hogan. Savage resents the attention

Elizabeth lavishes on Hogan and his anger is growing daily. Hulk's lack of regard towards the "Macho Man" is also becoming more evident every day and a violent feud could erupt at any time between the two men. Savage received 2,812 votes, 1,996 votes less than Ric Flair.

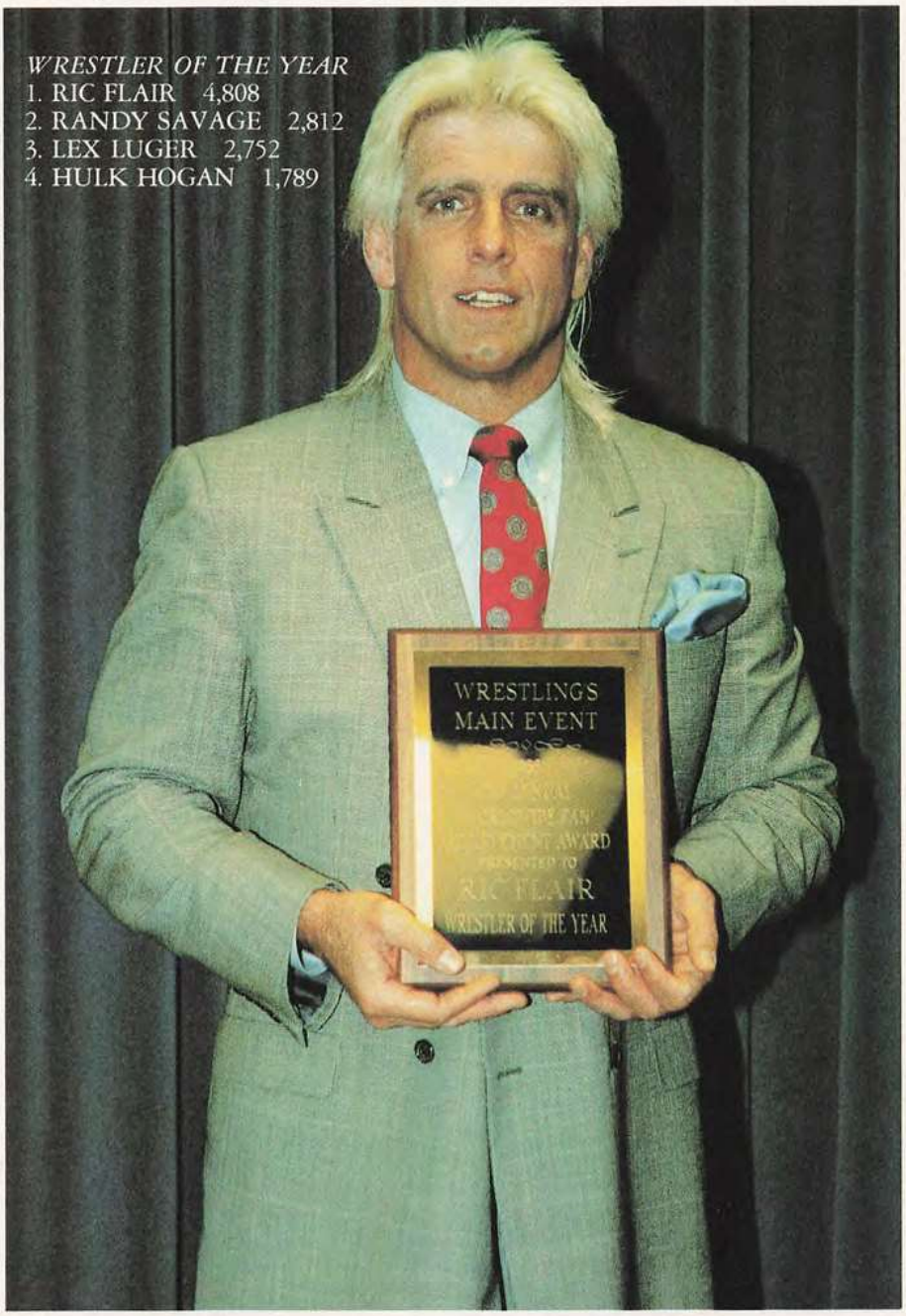
Third in the balloting was Lex Luger. His awesome, unpolished potential has stamped him as a future World Champion and even with his limited experience, has proven to be more than a match for Flair. Along with his partner, Sting, he won this year's Crockett Cup tournament, after finishing second last year when he was a Horseman. Lex received 2,752 votes in this year's election.

Hulk Hogan finished fourth this year, after finishing second last year. 1988 was a tough year for the Hulkster. He was cheated out of his World Championship by the devious Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant. His friendship with Randy Savage is about to end, and possibly, his friendship with Elizabeth. He took several months off from wrestling and, when he returned, suffered a humiliating beating at the hands of the Big Boss Man, who handcuffed Hogan to a fan barricade and beat him with a billy club on nationwide TV. Hogan received 1,789 votes for WRESTLER OF THE YEAR.

JJ. Dillon never hesitates to interfere when the Champion is in trouble.

Finally, finishing fifth was the valiant Kerry Von Erich who finally was able to come back from his motorcycle accident and won the WCCW World Heavyweight Championship. As the year ended, he lost that belt, in a very controversial decision, to AWA World Champion, Jerry "the King" Lawler. Kerry received 1,314 votes from WME readers and the respect and admiration of all wrestling fans worldwide. ■

Flair's influence convinced J.J. to offer Barry Windham a Horseman position.



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3RD ANNUAL
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PRESENTED TO
THE ROAD WARRIORS

DR. TOM PRICHARD:

"I'm The Man Everyone Wants to Beat."

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY KATHY DOWD

It started in June of '88 and many men fought for a spot in the finals of the "ROAD TO BIRMINGHAM" tournament for the coveted Continental Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Championship. Men who did make it to this tourney included "Mr. Perfect" Jerry Stubbs, Dr. Tom Prichard, "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony, Mr. Wrestling II, Terry Gordy, Kokina, Austin Idol, Dutch Mantell, Tim Horner and the Bullet.

The night was set for October 3 and the location was Boutwell Arena in downtown Birmingham. Fans from California, Mississippi, Florida, Virginia, New York and Canada came to see some great action. The first match was a Pole Battle Royal with Willie B. Hert winning it. The last match was a hair match and while Danny Davis won, Ken Wayne bombed him and cut Davis' hair. Yet the match most came to see was the tourney for the title. The final match came down to Dirty White Boy vs. Dr. Tom and while Anthony and his valet, Kim, did everything in their power to win, Dr. Tom held his own and won the match. Later, after the tournament, this journalist had the pleasure of being able to obtain an interview with this veteran to talk about himself, his career and the biggest accomplishment in his life, winning the C.W.F. Title.

Kim's interference usually puts Prichard at a disadvantage against The Dirty White Boy.

WME: How long has Tom Prichard been a pro wrestler?

TP: I've been a professional wrestler for nine years now. I started October 10, 1979.

WME: Please enlighten the readers to your amateur background in wrestling.

TP: I had a little amateur background in wrestling when I was 16 years old. Basically my training for wrestling was Judo and Karate. I started when I was ten years old in the parks and recreation in Houston. I got my black belt when I was eighteen years old. During that year I wrestled for the Boy's Club. I basically went into Judo and Karate because it fit into my activities period better than football, etc. In and around Houston they don't have amateur wrestling in the schools.

WME: Isn't it correct that you became a Judo instructor when you were 18 years old?

TP: That's correct. When I was eighteen I got my black belt and right after high school I taught classes with my friend, Kevin Calber, for two years and got into professional wrestling at the age of twenty. Actually I taught at sixteen, since I got my brown belt then, and had my own classes at eighteen.

WME: Isn't that uncommon to be an instructor at the age of 18?

TP: Well, yes and no. I took Karate and Judo since I was ten years old and I knew the Jr. level of it. I saw how the instructor taught it. I has a very good instructor by name of Bill Gray and I saw how he instructed kids. I saw how he trained the Sr. level class differently than the Jr. classes and when I got my black belt at eighteen, as he wouldn't promote anyone before eighteen, due to the maturity level. So when I got my black belt, I knew how to work with kids and it was a good experience for me.

WME: Did you ever consider going farther into Judo and Karate and try to go to the Olympics with your vast knowledge and understanding of the sports?

TP: No, I never really never gave it a thought. The only reason I took Judo and Karate was to get ready for professional wrestling. When I competed, I competed to win of course, but, if I didn't win, it wasn't the end of the world for me. Like I stated, Judo and Karate was just a tool for me to get into pro wrestling.

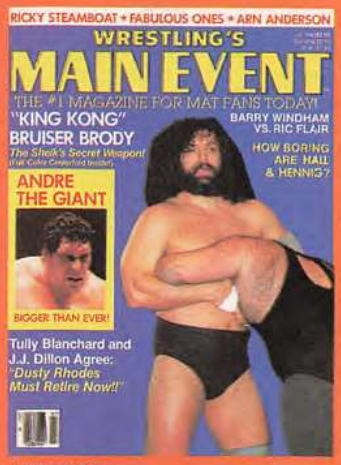
WME: Tom, you were a fan of wrestling. What wrestlers did you tend to idolize when you were growing up?

TP: Oh yeah. I was born in El Paso, Texas

PHOTOS BY STEVE STOGDALE

WRESTLING'S MAIN EVENT

Back Issues



JULY 86

AUGUST 86

SEPTEMBER 86

OCTOBER 86

NOVEMBER 86

DECEMBER 86

JANUARY 87

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Wrestling Main Event

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Dr. Tom Prichard with the belt he is proud of, the CWF Heavyweight Title belt.

and that was wrestling from West Texas (Amarillo office) and anyone from West Texas knew the best were only the most well-known wrestlers, the Funks. Terry, Dory, Sr. and Jr. were my idols. Later on, when we moved to Houston, I got to see Johnny Valentine, Wahoo, Jack Brisco. My respect grew even more for the sport. These men were the ones that laid the foundation. The Funks, above anyone else, were always my idols. Terry was extremely creative and was very, very talented.

WME: Will you clue us in to who trained you for professional wrestling?

TP: It was the Iron Sheik and it was through Paul Boesch. I was working in the Houston office. I used to take photos for "THE WRESTLING NEWS". I was there every week. Paul was just that type of person. He got me ringside to get photos. Eventually, he let me work in the office, which was great. There was a football player in Houston who wanted to train and Iron Sheik is the type of guy to train 'em because he can get the job done. Paul sent me down to the Sam Houston Coliseum to see if I'd stay with it and I did. After that it was a guy by the name of Nick Kozak and Joe Mercer.

WME: Tell us a bit about your early years as a wrestler?

TP: I had my very first match in Bryant, Texas and that went okay. My second match, however, was in Shreveport, Louisiana against Lord Jonathan Boyd and, since that time, I've met up against Lord Boyd a lot. I wrestled part-time from Oct. 79 to December '79. Then in January, I went to Los Angeles, California. In Los Angeles, I got "Rookie of the Year". I won the America's Tag Championship on three different occasions. I won it once with Chris Adams, Al Madril, and Apollo de Jalisco. From there I came back home to San Antonio for a brief time and I was still a rookie. I was still trying to make a name for myself. Then I headed to Atlanta and made many friends. I also did some commentating with Gordon Solie. Then I headed up to Tennessee and then to Don Owens and the Portland office. I wrestled there for a year and teamed up with Brett Sawyer and we were Tag Team Champions while there. I've been in this area for about three years and I've been very, very lucky and successful. As you know, Kathy, it's very hard to find a job in our business, especially today. I'm VERY HAPPY with the way things have gone for me in this area.

WME: What is Tom Prichard's strongest aspect as a pro wrestler?

TP: In the beginning years, I just wanted to be a good wrestler. As I got older and saw things the way they were, I wanted to win at almost any cost. I wanted everyone to know that I was there to win and would do whatever it took to do that. Sometimes you have to make a statement in order for people to make, or take, notice of you. When I came to this area I had a problem with Tim Horner. When it started people didn't like the way I was handling it and to be blunt with you, I didn't care what the people thought.

WME: Is there a weak aspect to wrestler Tom Prichard?

TP: Well, sometimes again when you do anything to win, you might take someone lightly and you might go in with the attitude that it won't take much for you to win and that's not always the best attitude to have. I don't do it all the time but there are times that I might become very confident. Some people might call it cockiness. I try and not let it rule my life but I usually don't always rule it out. There's always going to be a certain amount of confidence when I know I'm the best thing around.

WME: You've held a vast amount of different wrestling championships in nine years as a pro. Which are you the most proud of and why?

TP: I'd have to say, and not because it just happened, but the C.W.F. Championship which I won at the "Road to Birmingham". I've been Alabama Champion but this one, I think, because the way things are going right now in wrestling and they are trying to put all the titles into one title. We had the Southeast Title, Continental Title, Alabama Title, Mississippi Title and every other title you can think of. Now they've put all the titles

(continued on page 53)

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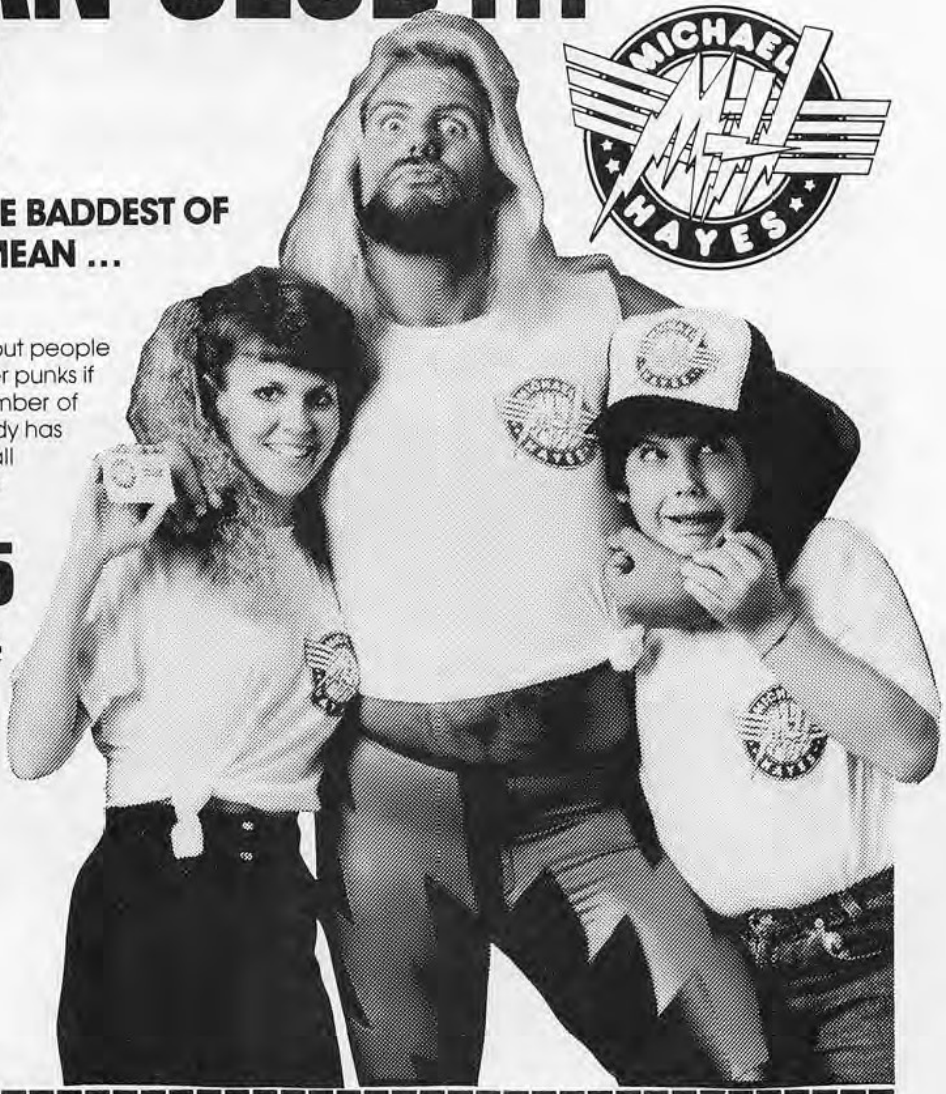

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CONTROVERSY AT SUPERCLASH III

By SANDY KREBS

The hype equalled that of any WWF extravaganza. For weeks on end, on all the AWA, WCCW, CWA and POWW television shows minutes could not go by without someone talking about SuperClash III, the night where two World Heavyweight Championships would be unified. It was a promise, either Kerry Von Erich or Jerry "the King" Lawler would be both the AWA and WCCW World Champion. There was a guarantee for that promise, the match would have no time limit and there would be a no-disqualification stipulation.

Kerry's piledriver set up a pin attempt (below).

Lawler's loaded fist drops from the top rope made Kerry a bloody mess.

True wrestling fans from around the country came to Chicago to see history made. Many more fans watched live on pay-per-view TV from the warmth of their homes. What they saw was not pleasant and the result was very, very controversial. As usual, both these men were confident before the match, they had met several times in the past few months and knew each other well. Neither man trusted the other. The match started out evenly with neither man able to gain a clear-cut advantage. An early advantage opened up for Lawler when he slammed Kerry's arm into the ringpost and cut it severely. Kerry's offense was hampered throughout the match by this injury to his arm. Kerry was able to control most of the

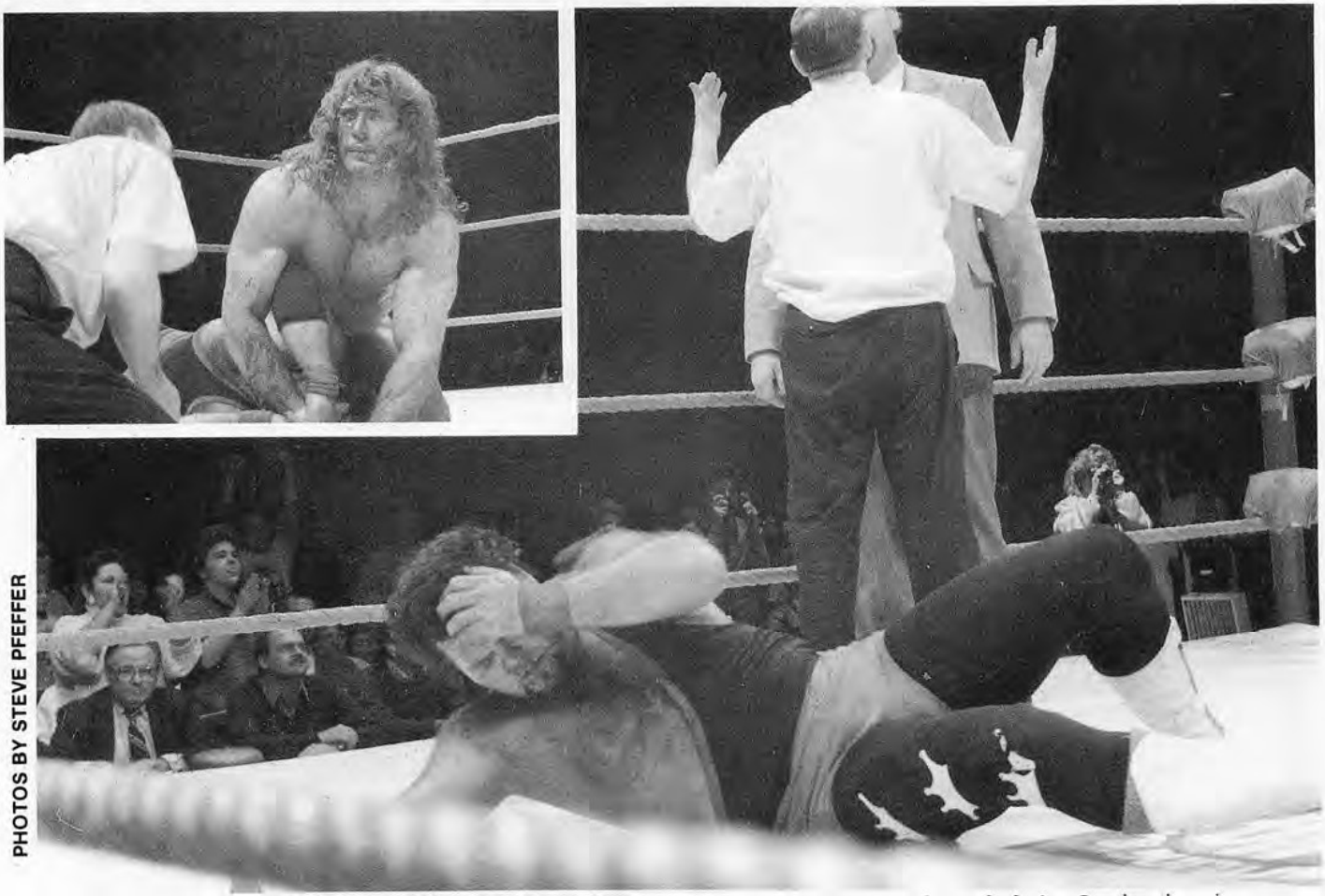
Kerry pins Lawler while the referee lays close by, stunned, and WCCW official, Frank Dusek, screams from outside the ring.

early action in this fight to a finish. The "King", frustrated by the WCCW Champion, started breaking the rules. In this no-disqualification match, anything went, no-holds-barred and foreign objects were legal. Lawler used a pair of brass knuckles to open up Kerry's head when he fist-dropped him from the top rope. Kerry was severely cut and referee Marty Miller kept checking Kerry to make sure he was able to continue and was still able to see. Everytime the referee checked Kerry, Kerry and his cornerman, WCCW Matchmaker Frank Dusek, screamed to let the match continue. Although weakened, Kerry went on the offensive, he fought back hard because he knew he needed the match to end quickly. However, Lawler wasn't going down easy this night.

Lawler fought back and relied solely on his fists through the last half of the match, as all wrestling skill went out the window. Lawler used the piledriver on Von Erich. Usually, the match is over after that hold, but, somehow, Kerry kicked out at two. Lawler went flying onto referee Miller, stunning him. Kerry picked up Lawler and gave him a piledriver of his own and went for a pin. Miller was still stunned and Kerry had Lawler covered for about ten seconds before Miller came to. When Miller saw the pin, he started the count, but the King kicked out at two. Kerry was able to get the Iron Claw on Lawler, however, Jerry was close to the ropes and the hold had to be broken. Miller continued to monitor Kerry's condition closely. The match degenerated into a pier-six brawl as the two men took the battle outside the ring. At this point, Kerry made a serious mistake. He set up Lawler for a discus punch, however, he missed and punched the steel ringpost instead, injuring his hand. The match went back into the ring and eventually, Kerry caught Lawler in the Claw again, this time away from the ropes. At first it was a Stomach Claw, then Kerry moved his hold to the head, Lawler was helpless and too far away from the ropes to get the hold broken. There was no way Kerry could lose! The bell rang. Lawler was unconscious in the ring, it appeared Kerry had won both belts. It was not to be, however, as referee Marty Miller had signalled the bell to be rung as he had stopped the match due to Kerry's severe bleeding and the threat the blood was causing to his eyesight. The fans were outraged, so was Kerry. This was not the right time to stop the match. It appeared that within several seconds the match would have ended anyway with Kerry declared the winner. Instead, Lawler, out cold, was the winner and "undisputed" Heavyweight Champion. Marty Miller laid the two belts on top of Lawler. Kerry angry, grabbed the belts and took them back to the dressing room with him.

Kerry's splash over the top rope failed to put away the AWA Champion.

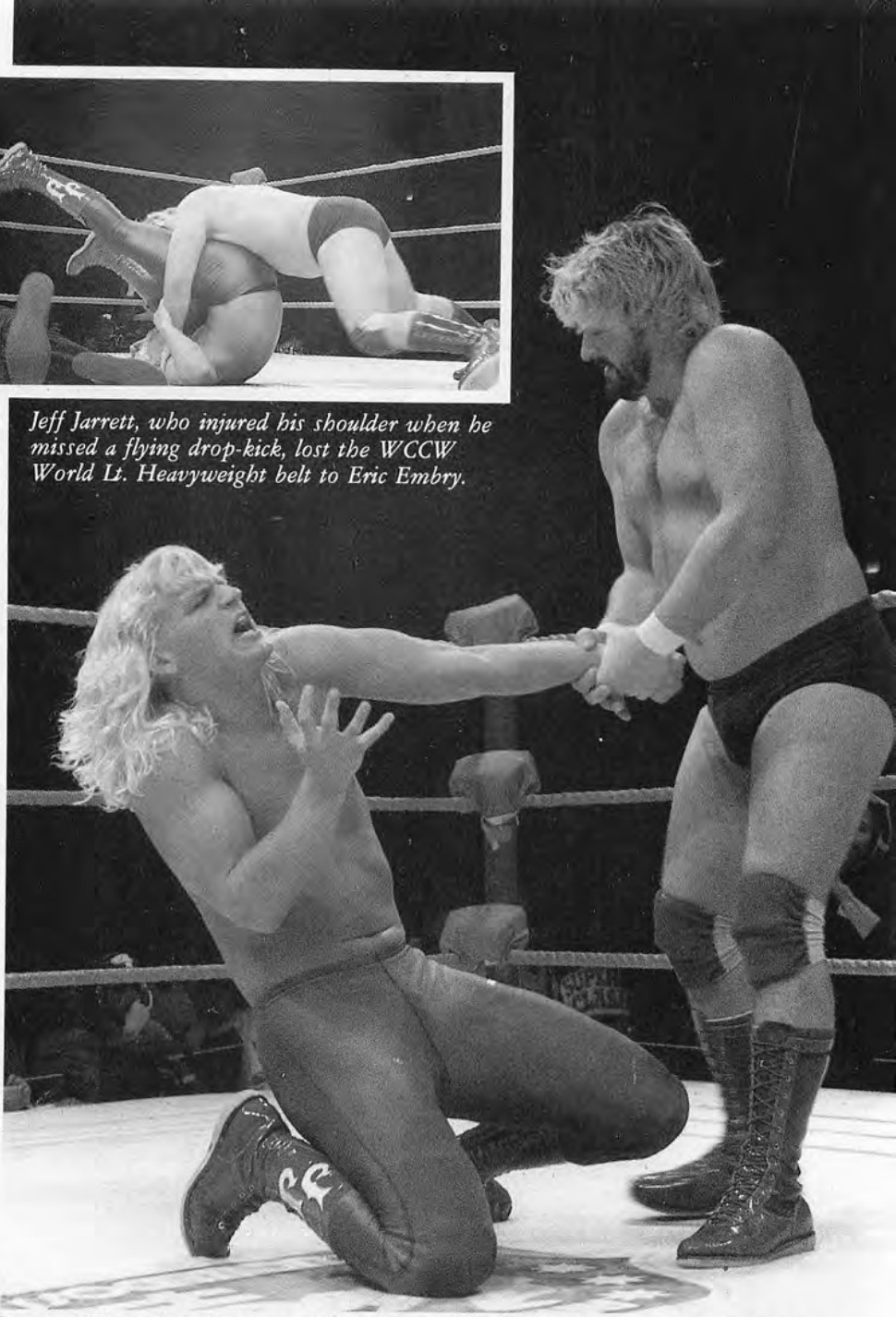
So, once again a Kerry Von Erich—Jerry Lawler Title unification match had ended in controversy, just like all the others. This time however, the ending, an ending caused by an AWA official decision, caused one man to lose his World Title belt. It appears that these two men must be locked into a cage, with no referee and no rules with the winner



PHOTOS BY STEVE PFEFFER

Kerry has Lawler trapped in the Claw while the referee checks his cuts and stops the bout, declaring Lawler the winner.

The Guerreros aerial moves helped defeat Cactus Jack and the R.P.M.'s.



Jeff Jarrett, who injured his shoulder when he missed a flying drop-kick, lost the WCCW World Lt. Heavyweight belt to Eric Embry.

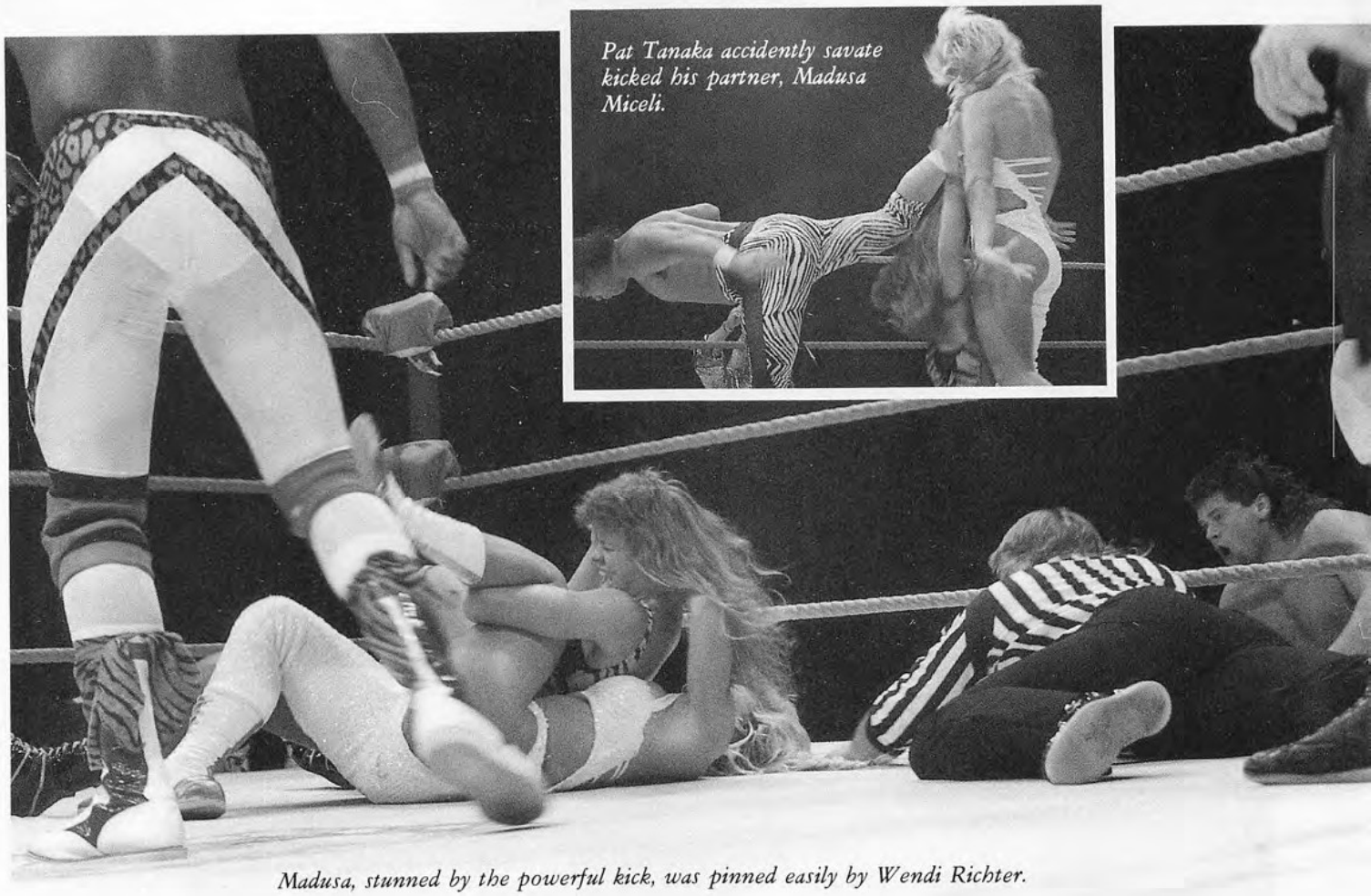
being the man who can survive and leave the cage on his own two feet. Kerry deserves a rematch, the fans demand a rematch, AWA, WCCW let's get it done!

Two other titles changed hands at SuperClash III. Eric Embry regained the WCCW Lt. Heavyweight Championship from Jeff Jarrett in a scientific match. Jarrett was hampered by a shoulder injury he received when he missed a flying drop-kick. Greg Gagne regained the AWA International TV Title when Ron Garvin was counted out of the ring. Gagne just barely got back into the ring at the count of nine to win the match.

In other Championship matches, "Iceman" King Parsons retained the Texas Heavyweight Championship when he kayo'ed Brickhouse Brown with brass knuckles and pinned him. The Samoan Swat Team defeated Michael Hayes and Steve Cox to keep the WCCW World Tag Team Titles. Michael Hayes had Fatu pinned in the ring when Buddy Roberts used the loaded glove on Hayes, knocking him out. Then, Roberts reversed the pin, putting Fatu on top of Hayes for an easy victory. This feud is far from over.

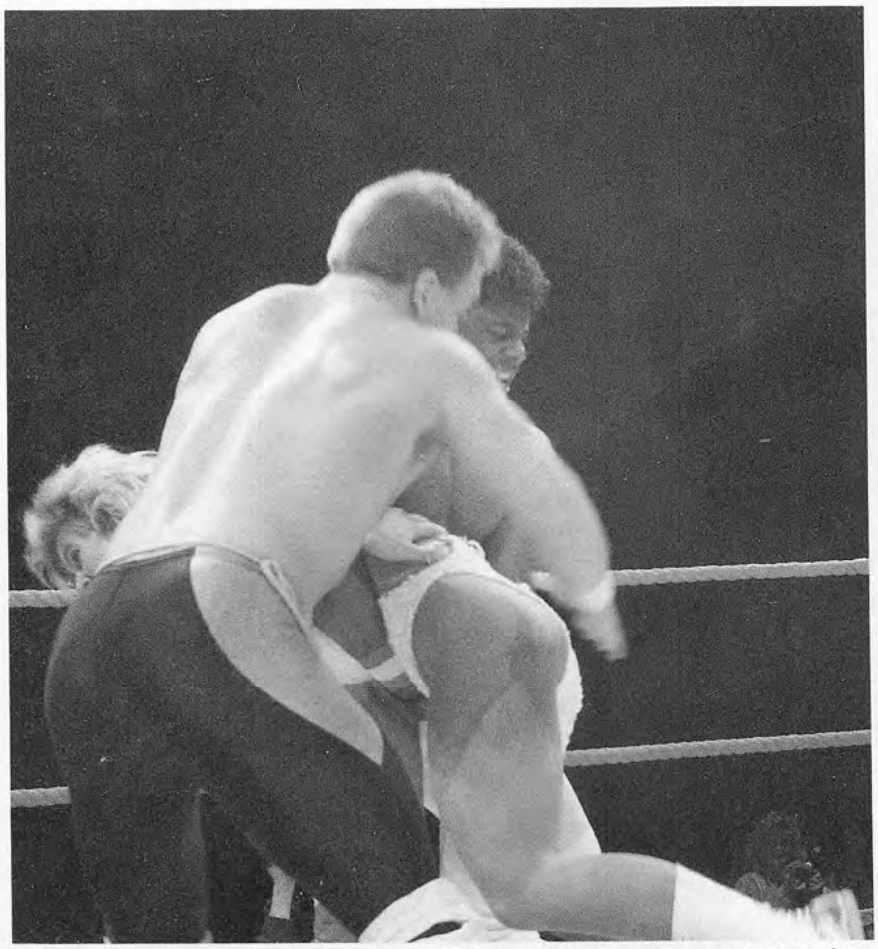
In other featured matches, a very bloody Wahoo McDaniel kept his unbeaten record in Indian Strap Matches when he defeated a very bloody Manny Fernandez. Fernandez attacked Wahoo after the match, tied him up with the strap and beat him until IWGP World

Brickhouse Brown really took it to Iceman Parsons, however, he lost to the Iceman when Parsons kayo'ed him with brass knuckles for a winning pinfall.



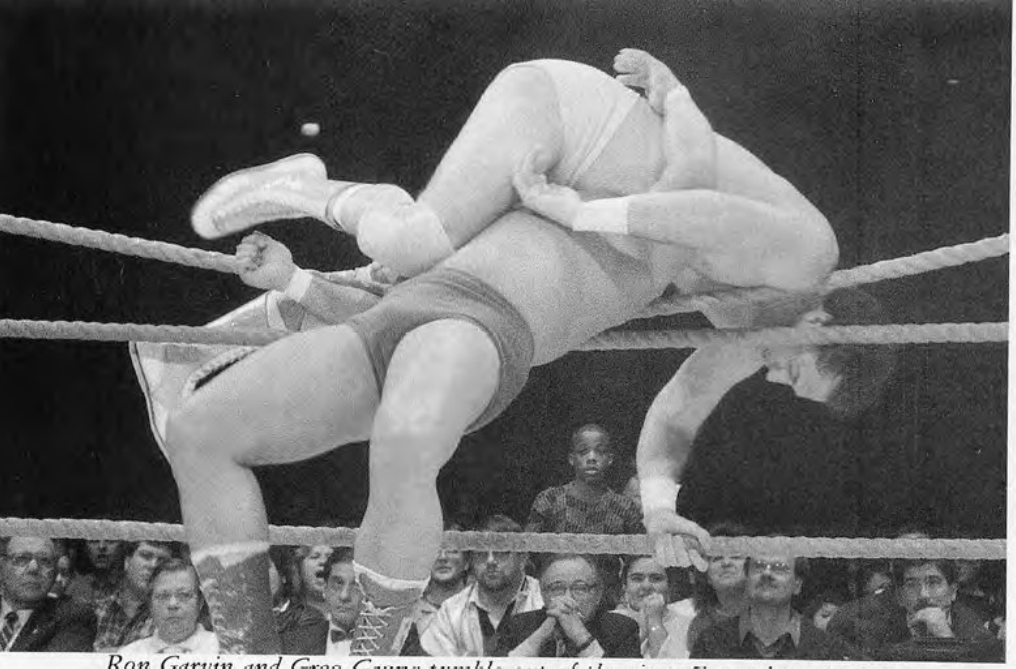
Pat Tanaka accidently savate kicked his partner, Madusa Miceli.

Madusa, stunned by the powerful kick, was pinned easily by Wendi Richter.



Afterwards, Wendi's partners, Derrick Dukes and Ricky Rice, spanked Madusa.

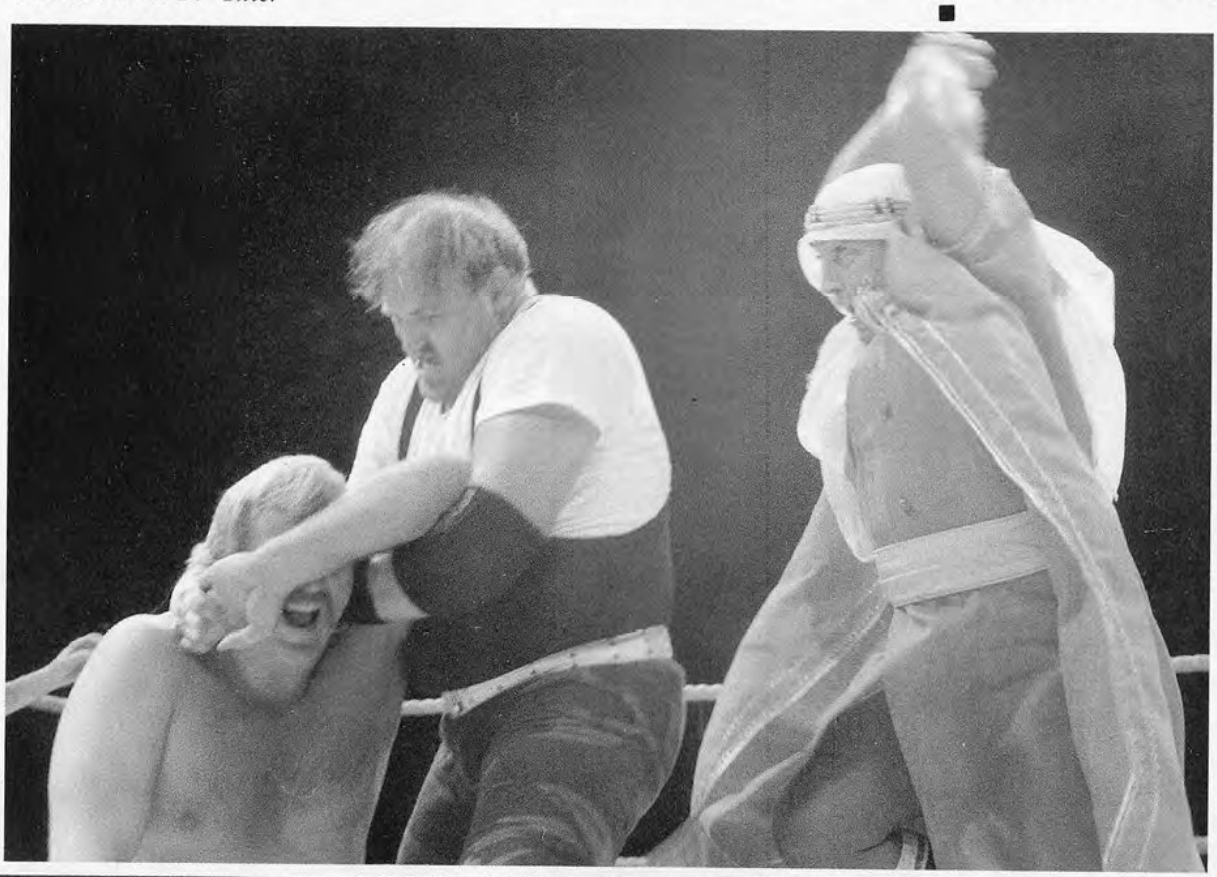
The POWW Battle Royal was won by the Syrian Terrorist, who eliminated Brandi Mae to win $10,000.



Ron Garvin and Greg Gagne tumble out of the ring. Gagne beat the ten count to win the AWA TV Title.

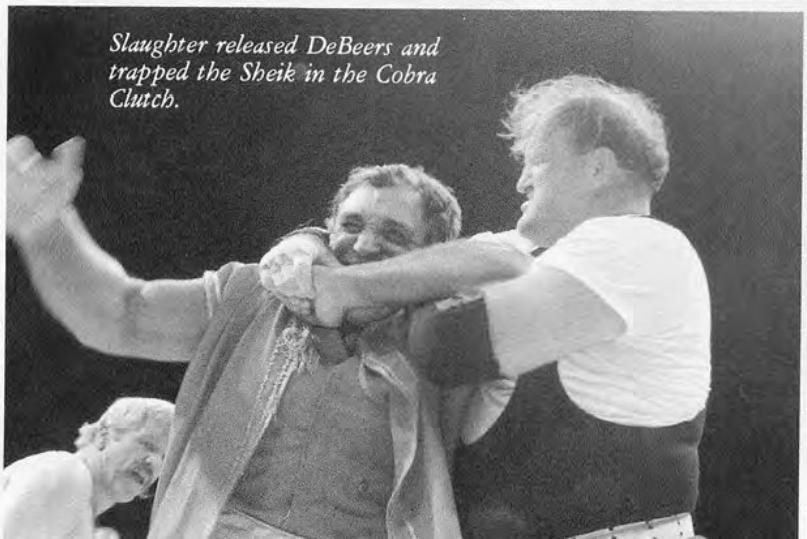
Champion, Dragon Fujinami, came to Wahoo's rescue and cleared the ring. Sgt. Slaughter won the Boot Camp match from Col. DeBeers when Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissey and the Iron Sheik interfered in the match. The Syrian Terrorist won the "$10,000 Beverley Hills Lingerie Street Fight" when she eliminated Brandi Mae by throwing her over the top rope. Badd Company and Madusa Miceli lost to Derrick Dukes, Ricky Rice and Wendi Richter when Wendi pinned Madusa after Tanaka accidently savate-kicked his partner.

In other matches on the card, The Guerreros displayed all their high-flying tactics when they beat Cactus Jack and the R.P.M.'s. Jimmy "Boogie Woogie Man" Valiant defeated Wayne Bloom in less than a minute and the Rock 'N' Roll Express fought to a double count-out against Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden. ■

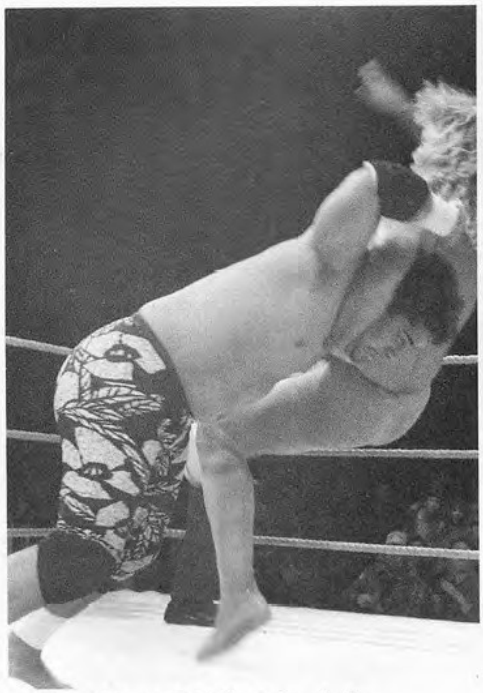


Sgt. Slaughter has Col. DeBeers trapped in the Cobra Clutch, unaware Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissey is attacking from behind.

The Iron Sheik, not on the card, came from nowhere to attack the Sarge and resume their feud from years ago.



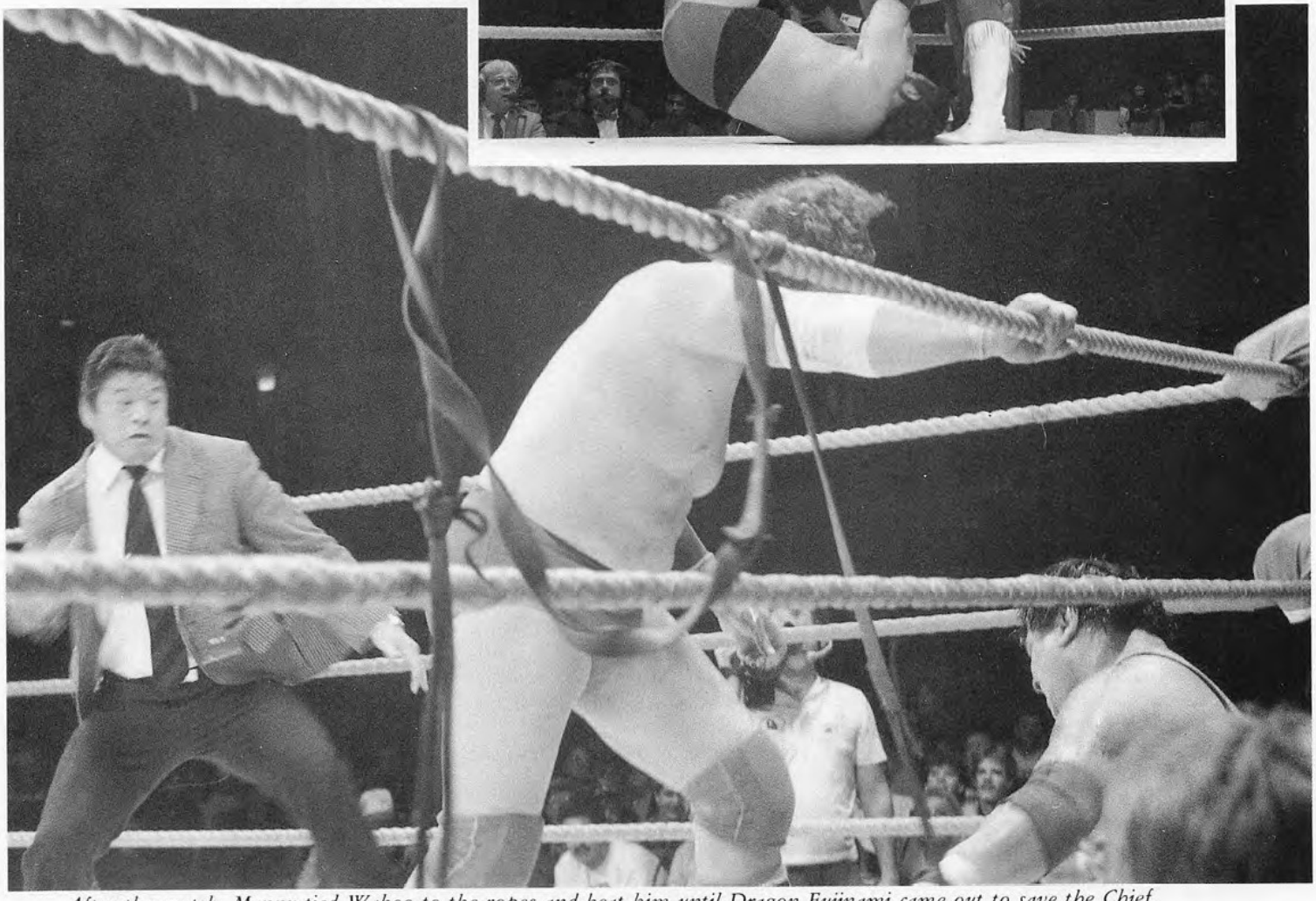
Slaughter released DeBeers and trapped the Sheik in the Cobra Clutch.



Michael Hayes DDT's Fatu of the S.S.T's. Buddy Roberts clobbered Hayes with the glove and reversed the pin.

The referee counts the fatal three on Hayes unaware of what Buddy Roberts did.

Wahoo McDaniel drags Manny Fernandez around the ring to win the Indian Strap Match.



After the match, Manny tied Wahoo to the ropes and beat him until Dragon Fujinami came out to save the Chief.

ANDRE'S ACHILLES HEEL

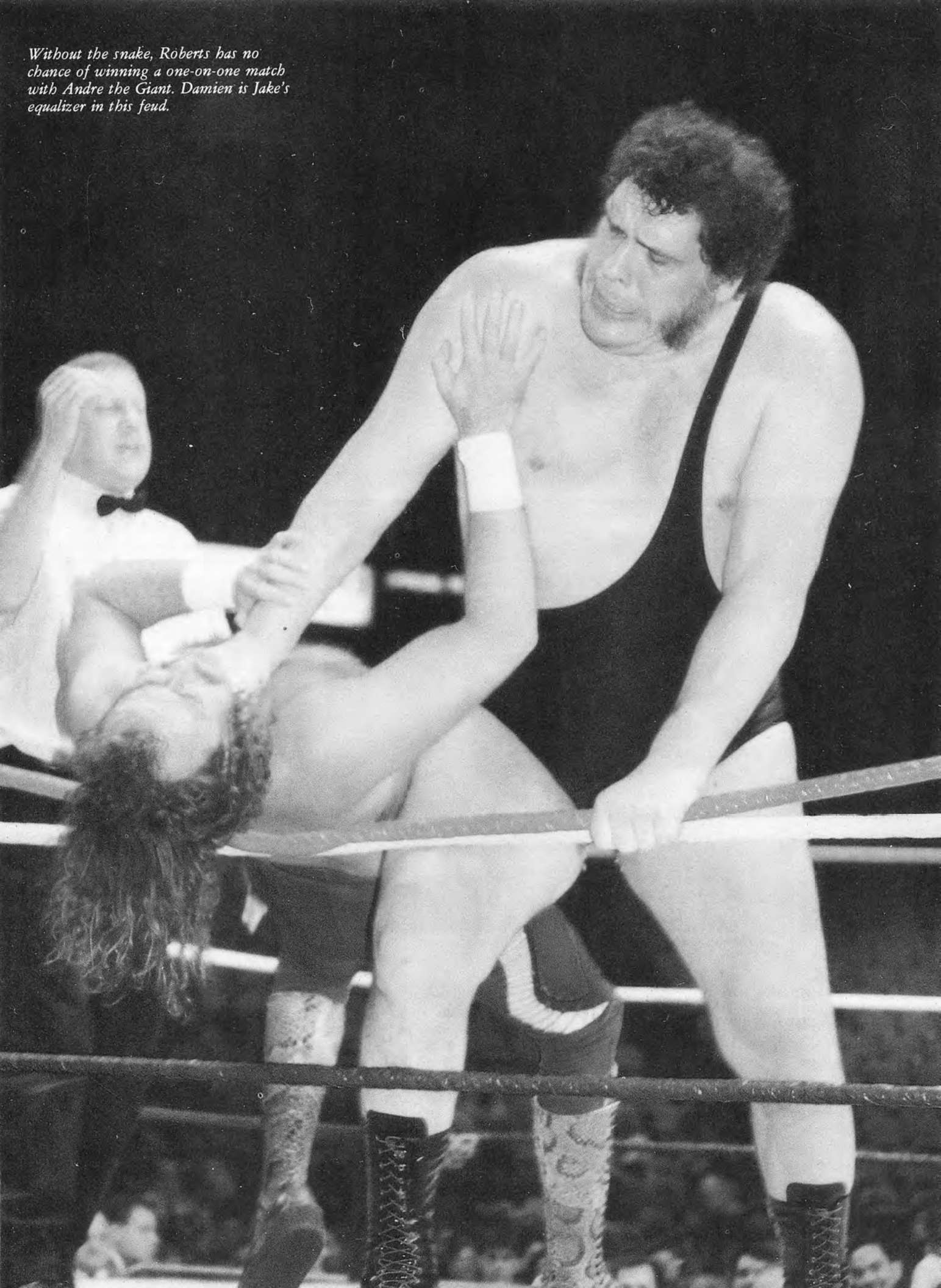
Everybody has their weakness, even Andre the Giant who was thought to be indestructable. Andre's afraid of snakes. There is one man in the WWF who loves the very thing Andre fears, Jake "the Snake" Roberts, who would love to put an end to the Giant's career with help from his pet, Damien the snake.

By SANDY KREBS

Andre the Giant claims not to be afraid of Jake Roberts' snake, Damien.

It was another in the series of matches between "Ravishing" Rick Rude and Jake "the Snake" Roberts. You had seen it all before, Roberts dragged Rude over to his corner where Cheryl Roberts, Jake's wife, was sitting. Jake tells Cheryl to slap Rude in the face, hard. She does and Rude falls backward, humiliated. Jake goes for his favorite finishing maneuver, the DDT, and nails it. Rude is in the center of the ring, out cold. However, this is "Saturday Night's Main Event" and instead of Jake getting the pin and victory, like he had countless times before, a different ending was in line. Bobby "the Brain" Heenan, Rude's manager, motioned frantically to the back of the Baltimore Arena. He was calling someone to the ring to save Rick Rude from a humiliating defeat on nationwide TV. That someone was Andre the Giant. As the Giant lumbered to the ring, Heenan himself tried to interfere and keep Roberts from winning. That was a mis-match, Heenan failed. By this time, the Giant had arrived at the ring and was about to attack Roberts. Roberts saw him and backed off, warily. He made his way to his corner, where he always kept his pet, Damien the snake. Reaching down, he grabbed Damien's bag and opened it, releasing Damien from captivity. Holding the snake, Roberts advanced towards Andre who, for the first time in memory, was backing up in fear. Andre was afraid of snakes!! Andre screamed for Bobby Heenan to help him, Heenan claimed he was unable to do anything. Andre begged Roberts to put the snake away and leave him alone. Roberts advanced closer and then threw Damien onto the Giant. Andre was petrified and flailed backwards in an attempt to get the snake off him. The snake wrapped himself around Andre. Andre was frozen in fear, then something unusual happened. Andre collapsed in the corner, grabbing at his heart. It appeared as if Andre the Giant was having a heart attack on nationwide TV. Soon, Andre was motionless, he couldn't have died, could he?? It appeared that way as Bobby Heenan ran to that side of the ring and tried to assist Andre. He started banging on his immense chest and listening for the sound of a beating heart. He cried out for a doctor to assist the fallen, once mighty Andre. Soon the

PHOTOS BY JOE ZANOLLE



Without the snake, Roberts has no chance of winning a one-on-one match with Andre the Giant. Damien is Jake's equalizer in this feud.

These pictures are the proof that Andre is afraid of Damien, the snake.

medical attendants were at the ring. The crowd, once laughing at the Giant's plight, was hushed. Eventually, the medical staff was able to bring the Giant around. Andre had passed out from fear of having Damien the snake thrown on his body. And, a new feud was born.

Moments after the incident occurred, Andre was interviewed on TV. He claimed not to be afraid of snakes, however, everytime the word "snake" was mentioned, he cringed in fear and screamed "Don't say that word!" Andre vowed to get revenge on Jake Roberts for humiliating him on nationwide TV. He vowed to end both snakes wrestling careers, once and for all.

Andre's first opportunity to get back at Jake Roberts occurred in the "Survivor Series" matches held Thanksgiving night in Cleveland, Ohio. Andre co-captained a team which included Dino Bravo, Rude, former great, Harley Race and Curt Hennig. In the other corner was a team co-captained by Roberts and his team included "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan, Scott Casey, Ken Patera and Tito Santana. Roberts had a pretty weak team and after 21 minutes, found himself in the ring, by himself, against four men, Rude, Andre, Bravo and Hennig. He held his own for a number of minutes and even was able to eliminate Rude from the match. Then, Andre decided to get involved again. Immediately after Rude was eliminated, before Roberts could even prepare for an attack, Andre entered the ring and viciously started to choke Jake Roberts. Andre looked to be insane as he refused to release the choke hold and the gleam in his wide eyes showed how much he was enjoying the punishment he was dishing out. Nobody could get Andre under control and nobody was strong enough to make Andre release the choke hold he was holding on Roberts. Eventually, Andre was disqualified for breaking the rules and Jake Roberts, unable to breathe, was out cold in the ring. Andre released the hold and Curt Hennig took an easy pin for his team, winning the match.

Since Thanksgiving, Jake Roberts and Andre the Giant have fought several times in one-on-one match ups. Jake Roberts is not a small man, he is 6'5" and about 250 lbs. Up against Andre he looks like a midget. Andre is 11 inches taller than Jake and 250 pounds heavier than Jake. To an outsider, this looks like a mismatch, and in a one-on-one battle it is. But, Jake has an ace in the hole, an equalizer, he has Damien the snake in his corner and when the going gets tough, Jake gets Damien. Once he releases Damien from his bag, the match is over. Jake Roberts is disqualified for outside interference. If not for being disqualified, Jake would win on a count out, for once Damien enters the squared circle, Andre leaves it and refuses to return until he no longer sees his feared enemy, the snake, and his hated rival, the Snake.

Enough people have seen Andre run away to be convinced that he is, indeed, afraid of snakes, yet, Andre refuses to admit this weakness. "I am not afraid of that. . of that. . . of that thing.", Andre insists, yet he won't even mention the word. To Jake Roberts' credit, he has not backed down from this feud, yet, without his equalizer, he really has no chance against the awesome power of Andre the Giant. For now, Jake Roberts has escaped serious injury and devastation at Andre's hands. But, can it always be? Someday, someplace, Jake Roberts will be in the wrong corner or be where he can't find his equalizer, or Bobby Heenan may steal the snake from Roberts' corner, leaving him defenseless. Then, Andre will be able to inflict punishment with no concern to his own safety and certainly no concern for Roberts' health and welfare. With all the hate and anger released at one time, it could be dangerous. Andre didn't die in the Baltimore ring, Jake Roberts, if he isn't very, very careful, might at the hands of a brutal, revenge-minded, sadistic Giant named Andre. ■

DR. TOM PRICHARD *(continued from page 41)*

There is no end in sight to the Prichard-White Boy feud.

together and bring out just one Champion. Now when they bring out just that one man, it's the one that everyone wants to beat. They have to come just to me and I think that's why I'm most proud of this Championship.

WME: What's been Tom Prichard's biggest accomplishment in pro wrestling to this date in time?

TP: Again, I think the biggest accomplishment has been winning the C.W.F. Championship because there were enough people in the "Road to Birmingham" that were very well-known and, if it were to come out any other way, it would have, but, I was very lucky. Thank God that I was confident that night but not over-confident.

WME: Do you have a favorite finishing maneuver?

TP: Yes, I do. A lot of people call it different things. I like to call it a roundhouse kick. I'll tell you where I saw before. Chris Adams was the first person that I ever saw use it here in the U.S. and that's when I was in Los Angeles. Chris was my partner in Southern California and then I started using it in San Antonio. I've seen other people try and use it but they haven't used it as well as I have. Chris was effective with it and I've been effective with it.

WME: While appearing here in the C.W.F., you've had an on-going feud with The Dirty White Boy. Tell us a bit about how this fighting started and why you feel it's been on-going?

TP: Well the Dirty White Boy, awhile back, had been giving me the hardest time around. We've had feuds over the Alabama Title and he even took that from me. Afterwards I related that I wasn't happy and he fought back and he even tried to put a rope around my neck and hang me. Well that happened and it even got to a point where our attitudes have really gotten into it. It's been up and it's been down. Once, here in Dothan, he even tried to hit me over the head with a beer bottle. So he's been the toughest guy around of late.

WME: Recently "Mr. Perfect" Jerry Stubbs has also turned against you. I'm sure that our readers thought the two of you were best of friends. What happened?

TP: "Mr. Perfect's" unpredictable you know. I don't know what's on his mind. He's a guy like that. I've gone to his home and sat by the pool and got some sun. He's the nicest guy in the world and he's your best friend and then he can turn on you in a split second. One day he's that way and the next day, he's totally different. One day he's your friend. The next day you don't know if you can leave money around him, you know???? I don't know what the deal is here.

WME: And doesn't he make racial remarks about Willie B. Hert too?

TP: It's true! It's true! He does. He's got things on his mind and I'm not quite sure what they are, you know, but I know we were the best of friends and now, for some reason, he wants to side with Tony and, for whatever reasons, that's fine with me. They were a successful tag team before and I can't begrudge anyone for trying to be a success. Again either you're with me or against me and if you're against me, you're going to have to fight me. It's as simple as that.

WME: Who are some of the people that are gunning for your title?

TP: Well there's Dirty White Boy, "Mr. Perfect", Ken Wayne, Mr. Alan Martin, Tim Horner and maybe even Brad Armstrong.

WME: Describe yourself as Tom Prichard, the person.

TP: I like to say that if someone or, if I was in a club, and I like to go to clubs, you know, and someone came up and was being, or trying to be, a sociable person, you should be nice too. I've lived by the rule even before I became a wrestler, that if people were nice to you, you shouldn't be a total jerk back, but, you could be nice, too. I guess what I'm trying to say is "Do unto others, the way that you want others to do unto you." If I've been in the wrong, I'd be the first, well maybe the second person, to admit that I was wrong. Yet, if someone wants to be a jerk, so can I. When I'm away from the ring, I really like to be away from the ring because nobody always likes to talk about their job 24 hours a day.

WME: What kind of music turns on Tom Prichard?

TP: Ahhhhh, I like rock and roll especially heavy metal. Not speed metal (thrash) like that grinding music. Like you know, I like David Lee Roth. I'm into heavy metal.

WME: When and where were you born?

TP: I was born in El Paso, Texas on August 18, 1959.

WME: Tell our readers about your height and weight?

TP: It's a top secret. No really, I'm about 5'10" and about 220 pounds.

WME: How does it feel to become an idol of many of today's teenagers?

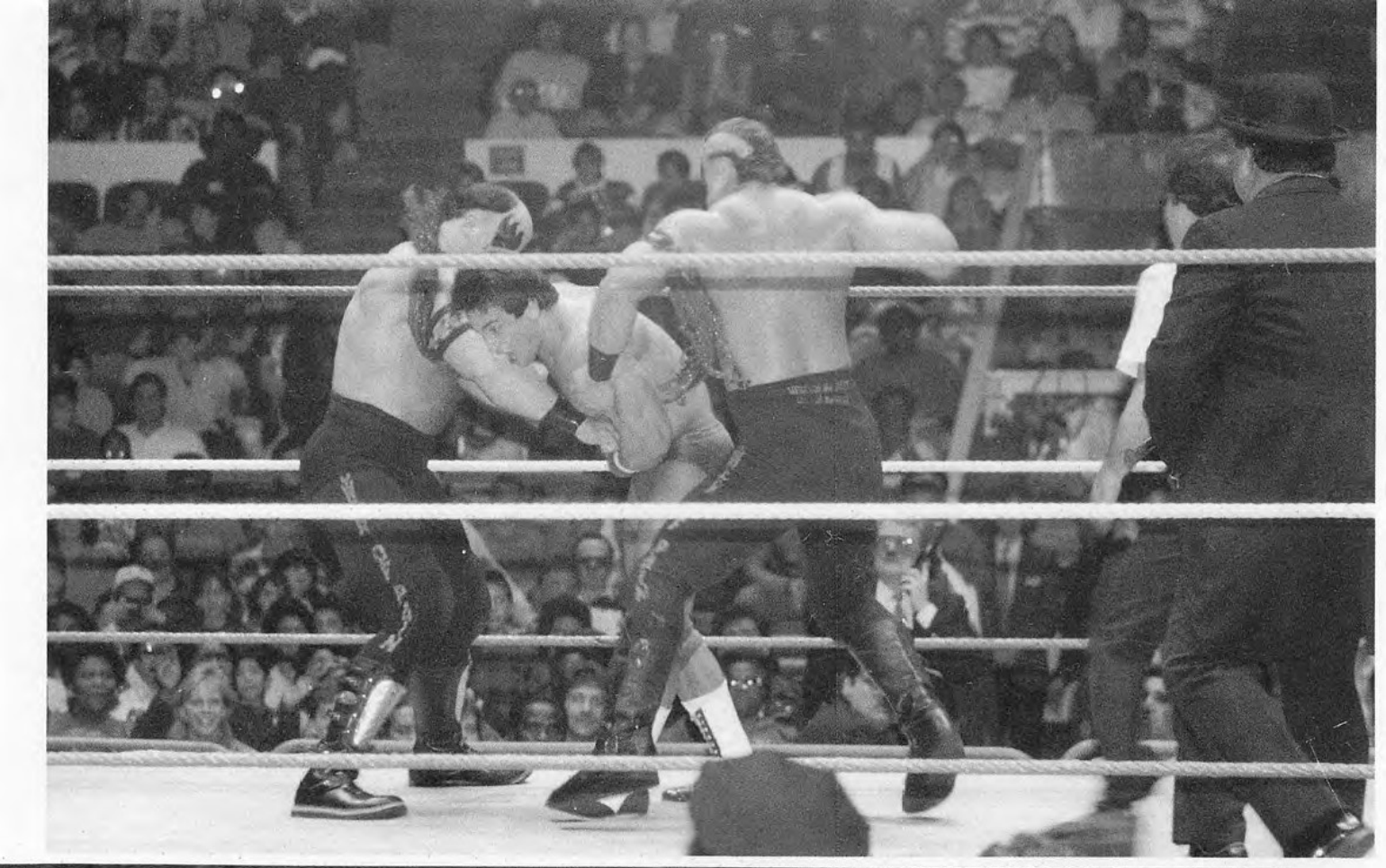
TP: It's great!! I remember when I was a fan of wrestling and what it was like to meet the people in the wrestling world. I remember the guys that were cool and nice. I also remember a few that weren't that way. Now I know why they weren't nice but I know what it's like to be a fan. Being an idol is GREAT! I've gone to different boy's clubs and girl's clubs and they get to talk to me and that's super too. It's like again, "Do unto others the way you want others to do unto you." I think it's super that people want to look up to me and idolize me. That makes me feel great.

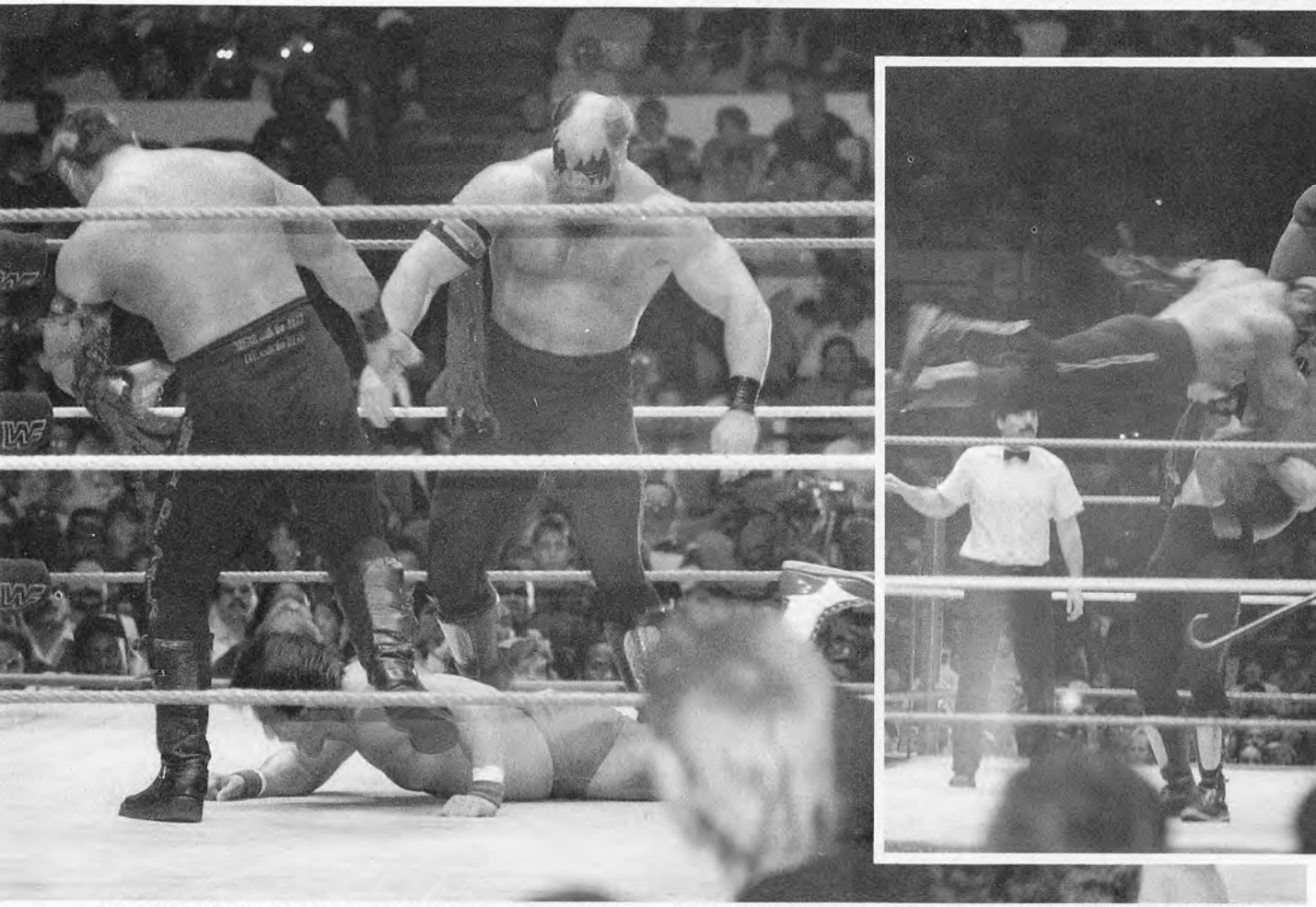
WME: Finish this sentence. When Tom Prichard looks into the mirror what does he see for himself in the future?

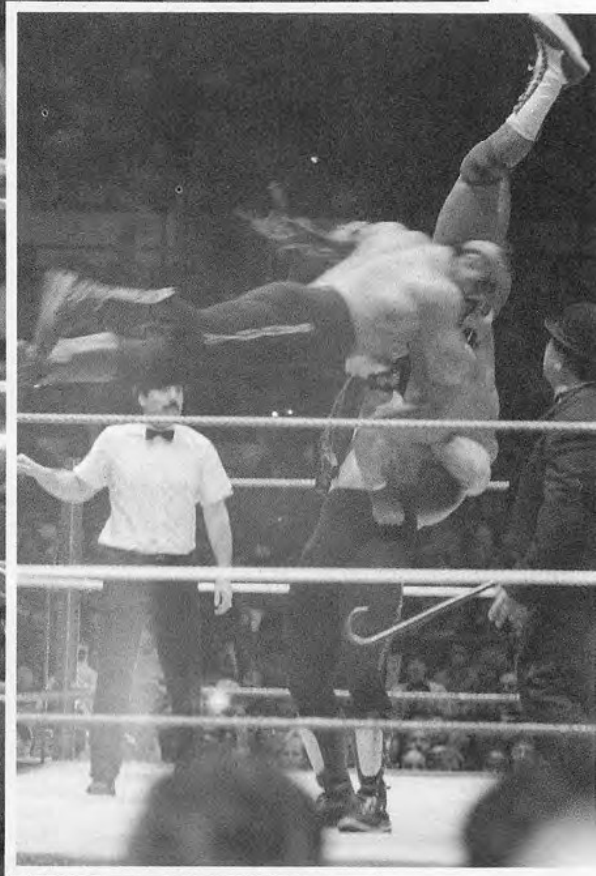
TP: I see a lot of tough challenges both inside and outside the ring. I really do. When I look in the mirror I can see in my own eyes and I see that I'm going to have to face many challenges when I walk out that door. A lot of people in today's society will think you're going to have an attitude. The fact of the matter is that is the way it is. I guess that's where the confidence and sometimes over-confidence comes in.

WME: Thanks for sharing some of your time with our readers and good luck in defending the new C.W.F. Championship.

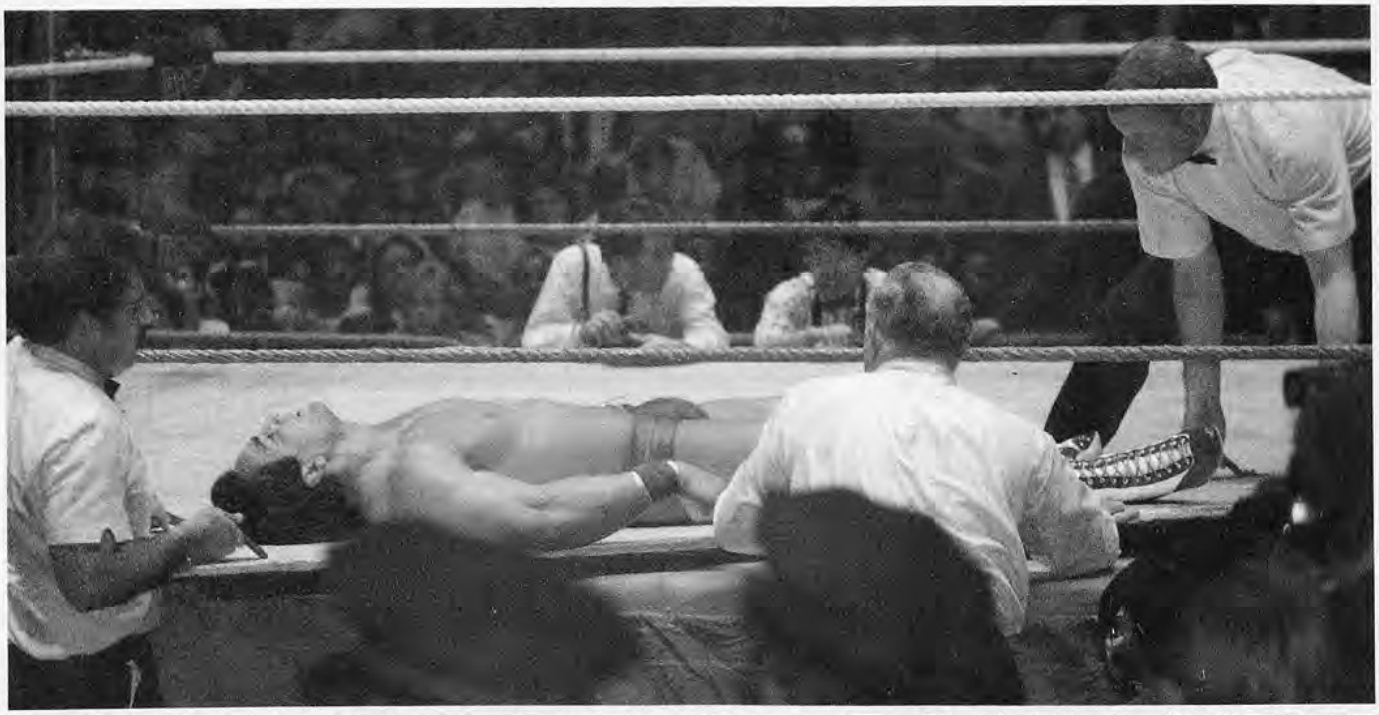
TP: Thank you and you're very welcome Kathy. ■







Even though the Warlord and Barbarian joined forces with Mr. Fuji to win the Survivor Series, the fans thought the team was still fan favorites. After attacking Paul Roma for no reason at Madison Square Garden, the fans knew better. The fans are cheering for Demolition now.



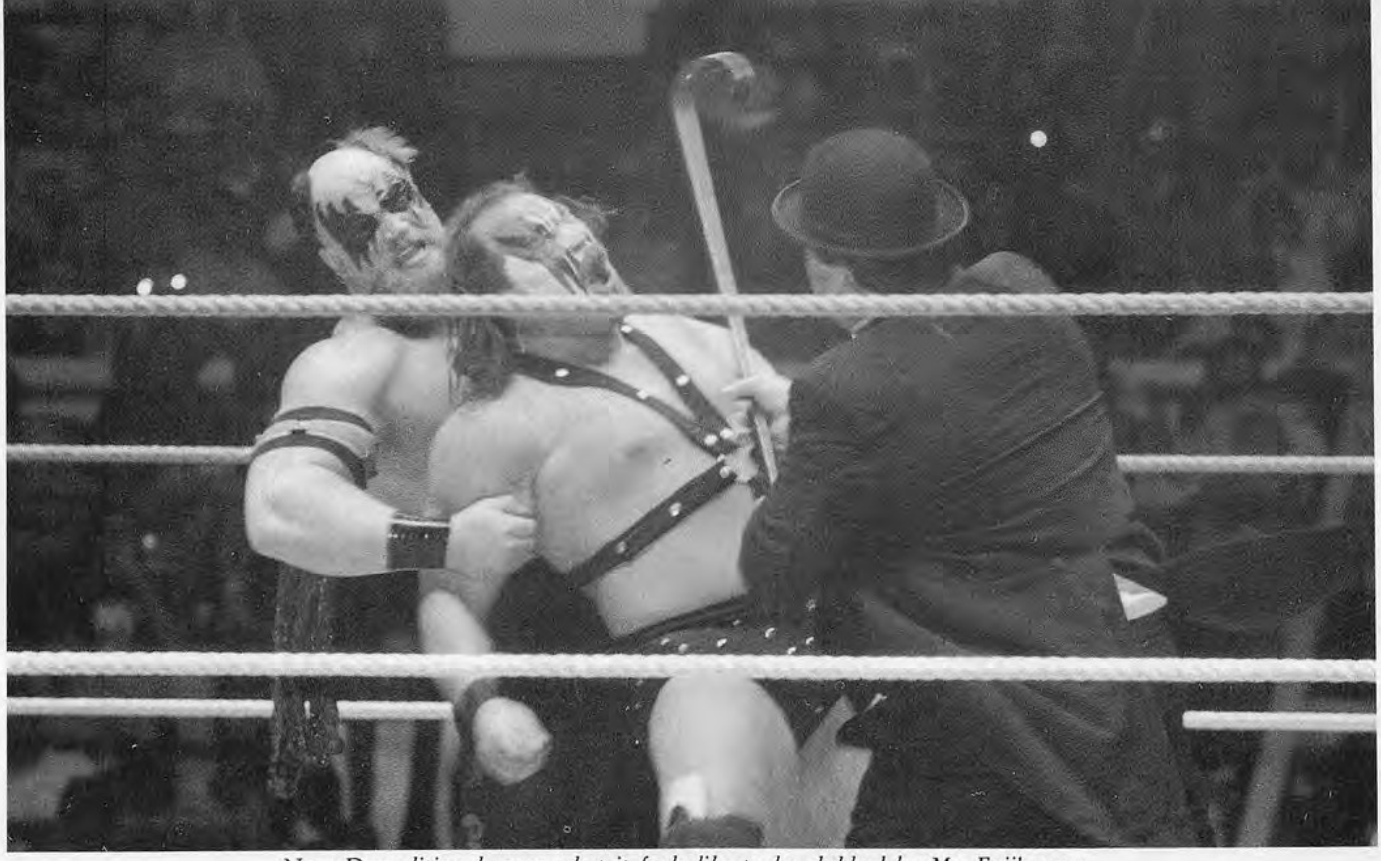
THE POWERS OF PAIN TURN THEIR BACKS ON THE FANS WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE WWF??

The Powers of Pain were foolishly cheered by WWF fans. Only in the sport for money, they have now become rulebreakers and have joined with Mr. Fuji to fight the WWF World Tag Team Champions, Demolition. Can Demolition hold them off?? With Mr. Fuji guiding them are the Warlord and Barbarian unstoppable??

PHOTOS BY STEVE PFEFFER and JOHN BARRETT

By STEVE PFEFFER

The Barbarian and the Warlord had just finished a much heated run around with the Road Warriors, it was getting each team nowhere in their separate endeavors for the top spot in Crockett's sinking promotion. Leaving the NWA (some say the "Legion of Doom" ran them out) indirectly led to the Road Warriors capturing the NWA World Tag Team Championship and dethroning kingpins, the Midnight Express. Animal and Hawk were able to fully concentrate on more important things than revenge. . .making money. Making money is also on the minds of the Powers of Pain. When Warlord and Barbarian first arrived in the WWF it was as replacements for the fallen Strikeforce, thanks to Rick Martel getting put out of commission by Demolition. Why were they out to get Demolition? Why were they following Tito Santana's lead for revenge of the fallen Strikeforce member? The answer to both questions is they weren't. Fans started looking at the phony persona of vigilantes. The fact is the Powers of Pain hardly knew Rick Martel, they didn't like Tito Santana and they couldn't care less from the start about the fan's feelings towards them. Look, throughout their careers both the Warlord and the Barbarian have been out for money. Like them or hate them they did what they wanted, when they wanted and how they wanted. Was anybody going to stop them? Conditioned as a team by the ever devious Paul Jones, nothing less than total power and devastation was expected of them each and every night, Tito was trying to direct that power into vengeance. The only reason the Powers followed their original path was because Demolition hold something they want, the WWF World Championship Tag Team Belts. Mr. Santana couldn't manage his way out of a paper bag much less lead a team to the Championship. Soon the title matches were slowing down and despite beating Demolition from pillar to post, Jack Tunney said they had to prove themselves Championship material. One day during a TV taping the Powers of Pain arrived in a jet black limo with no license plate, stepping out of the mysterious car with them was a person known only as "the Baron". Later on WME insiders found out that the man was truly Baron

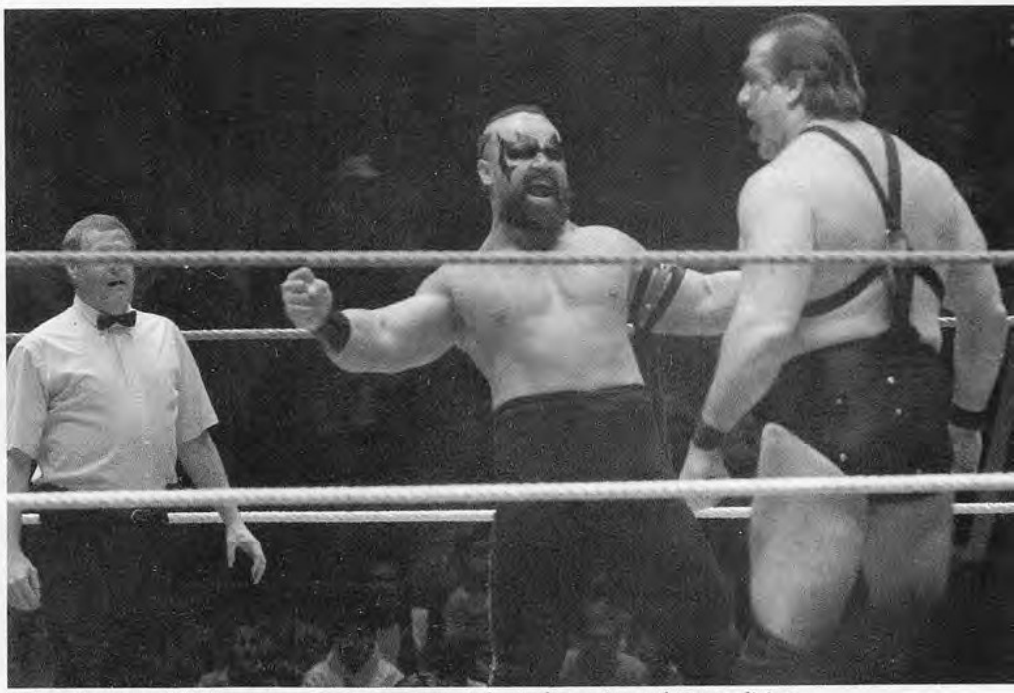


Now Demolition knows what it feels like to be clubbed by Mr. Fuji's cane.

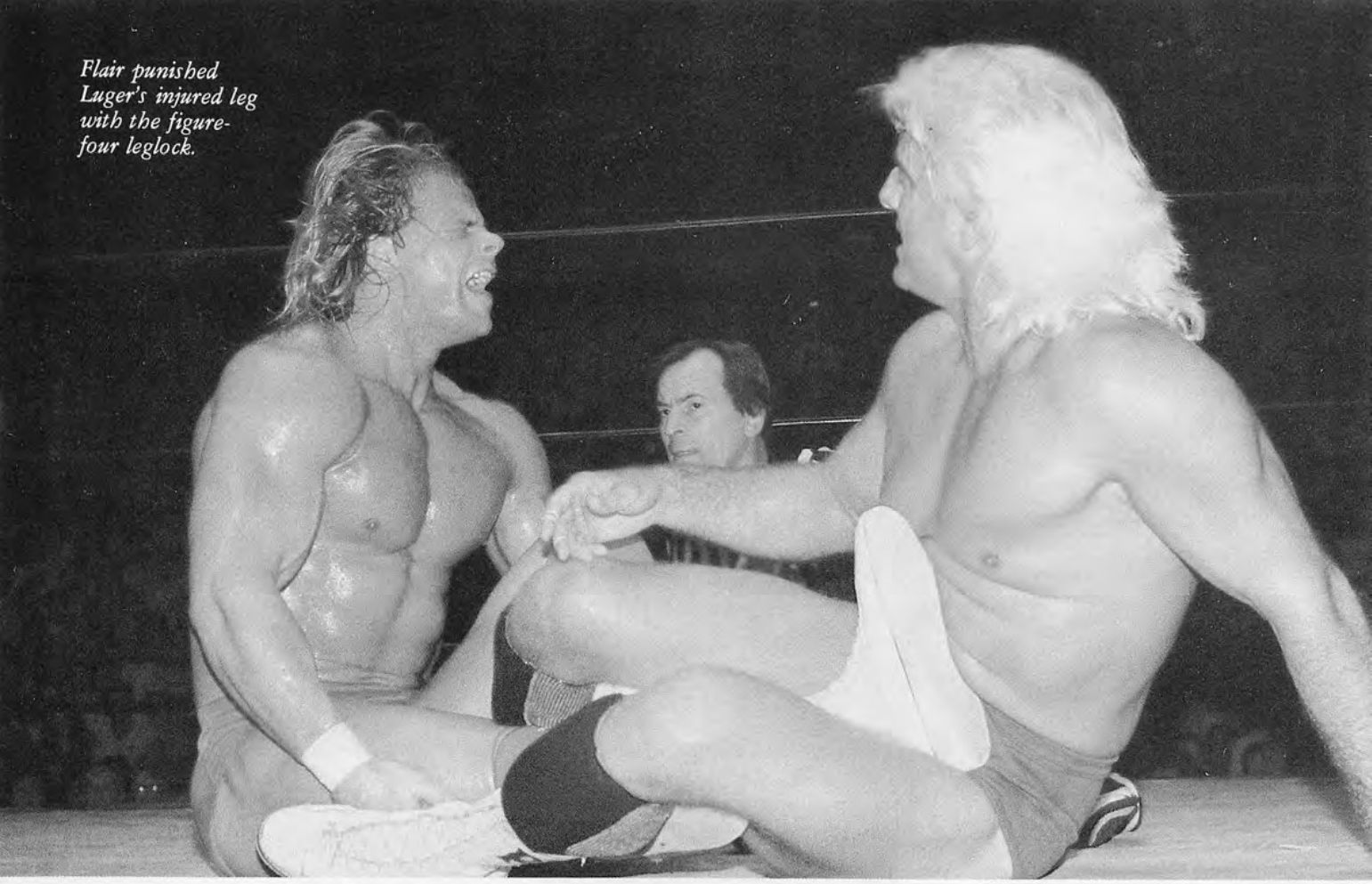
Von Raschke, a veteran whose Nazi past is well documented and his Claw Hold documented on his opponent's faces. With a truly evil character like Von Raschke in their corner, it seemed that their fate was sealed. Under this new management the Powers faced a wide range of opponents like the Bolsheviks, the Bolsheviks, the Bolsheviks etc. It finally came down to SummerSlam where the Powers of Pain again faced the Bolsheviks, this time beating them on pay-per-view TV.

What is a Barbarian and a Warlord to do?? All their competition is being monopolized by other senseless feuds. Could they challenge the Rougeaus? No, they were too busy tangling with the Hart Foundation. Who else was left? The Bulldogs, the Rockers, the Killer Bees, the Young Stallions, all of them are loved by the fans. Demolition? They're the Champions and before facing the Champions they had to face and beat another high ranking team (if you ask me the Bolsheviks are not a high ranking team). Mr Fuji saw what was happening, his mind started working and he came up with a plan. Right after SummerSlam some of Fuji's associates approached the Powers of Pain with a proposition. Come with me and I'll make you the World Champions. The next day the Baron disappeared and the Powers of Pain were apparently going solo.

Seeing a growing problem with Demolition, they were getting more and more disobedient, Fuji had no other choice than to hire the Powers of Pain. This would insure him not only a team that is able to strip his former men of the World Championship Belts, but a team with the abilities to become the greatest tag team to ever hold them. The unveiling of his sneaky, underhanded dealings came at the Survivor Series. During the tag-team contest, while the Powers were squaring off against Demolition, Fuji betrayed his men by literally pulling the ropes from under them. Smash flipped out through the ropes, falling to the hard cement floor. Seeing what Fuji had done, both Ax and Smash attacked their manager with unrelenting viciousness, only to be ambushed by the Powers of Pain. Demolition got counted out of the ring, the Powers of Pain went on to beat the Conquistadors and win their match to become the ultimate Survivors. Raising Mr. Fuji high on their shoulders for everybody to see, a new chapter in WWF wrestling has been written. Demolition may be fighting a losing battle, they are no Powers of Pain in either strength or ability. But remember this, Mr. Fuji, even if your men do win the Tag Belts they still have to live in the shadow of the NWA World Champions, the Road Warriors.



The Powers of Pain are a younger, more talented version of Demolition.



Flair punished Luger's injured leg with the figure-four leglock.

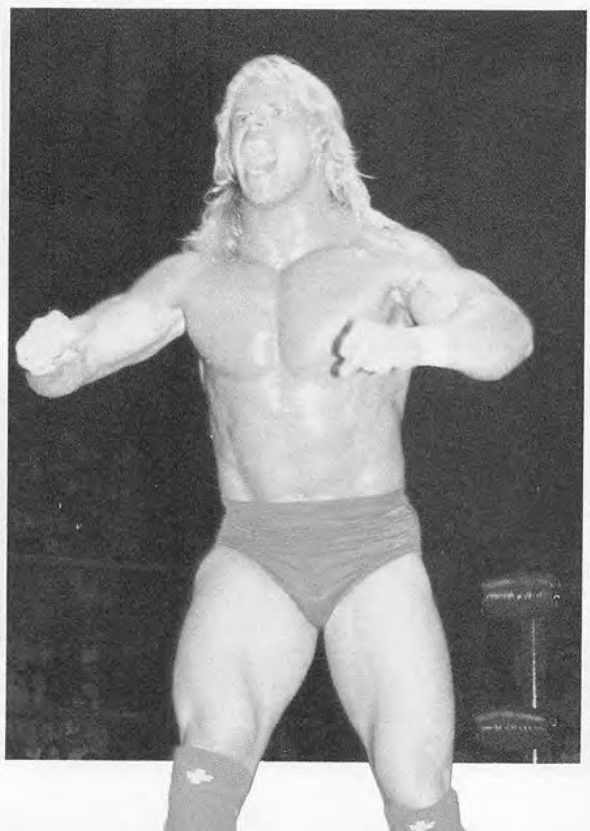
NO MORE TITLE SHOTS: WHERE DOES LEX LUGER GO FROM HERE?

By SANDY KREBS

"Luger you're history, it's over!! As long as I'm the World Champion, you'll never get another shot at this belt. How does it feel, to be told on live, world-wide TV that you're finished?? But, the bottom line is, I call the shots, I'm the Champion and you're not, and I'm telling you you'll never get another chance at this belt for as long as you live! Whoo!"

Fans who watched Starrcade on pay-per-view Cable TV heard Ric Flair say those words just moments after he successfully defended the World Title against Lex Luger in the main event. While fans in the Norfolk Scope were preparing to watch the meaningless "Bunkhouse Stampede" Battle Royal, won by Junkyard Dog, fans not at the arena were listening to history being made. Ric Flair stopped Lex Luger in his tracks and, effectively, ended any chances he had of ever being the NWA World Heavyweight Champion. This, despite the fact that Flair has never yet cleanly pinned "The Total

After beating Luger at "Starrcade '88", Flair told the world Lex would get no more Title shots.



PHOTOS BY BOB MILLER and DEBRA MOSER

Package" in the middle of the ring.

In the five months Lex Luger was able to get title shots at the Champion, he showed vast improvement, both in skill and stamina. Although Lex is a sculptured physical specimen, a good body does not make a good athlete. A total package has the body and stamina to be able to take what his opponent dishes out, for as long as the match goes on. In the past, Lex usually had problems once a match went past fifteen minutes. He was not in aerobic condition to maintain a high degree of ability and it hurt him. In matches with Ric Flair, you must be prepared to wrestle for as long as the Champion wants to go and you better be prepared to go to the time limit because in his matches, the Champion sets the tone and pace of the match. Once Lex started receiving title shots he went into foreign territory for him, the twenty to thirty minute match. Flair realized he couldn't overpower Luger, so, he tried to outlast the young challenger. Lex began to realize this also, so he began to incorporate scientific moves into his arsenal of power moves, in an effort to overcome the Champ's strategy. In came a sleeper hold, he learned the figure-four leg lock, he started throwing more flying drop kicks and he finally incorporated a flying body press, a move much smaller men are effective with. And, for Starrcade, Lex cut weight, he dropped 12 pounds from his 275 lb. frame hoping the lighter weight would help him with his stamina problem.

All his preparation seemed to work, as "The Total Package" really took it to Flair. Flair's punches had little effect on Luger, the figure-four leglock was reversed on him once, and used on him once. The Champion was thrown around the ring like a stuffed doll. Only when the Champion resorted to his famed illegal tactics did the tide turn in the match. He went out of the ring, grabbed a chair and smashed it over Luger's left knee, hoping to break it. That was the equalizer, as Luger could barely walk, much less wrestle. He tried though. With limited scientific skill, he went back to his power moves, which was his downfall. He trapped Flair in the "Human Torture Rack" and the Champion was helpless. Then Luger's knee buckled and he collapsed, the Champion flipped over on top of Lex and pinned him, with the aid of the ropes, for a tainted victory over the NWA's #1 World Title contender. Afterwards, came the bombshell-no more Title shots for Lex Luger. Where does he go from here??

We were fortunate enough to speak to Luger a couple of days later to see how he felt about this new situation. Obviously, he was not too pleased. "Listen, you know I'm the #1 contender and so does Natch",

Lex's power moves backfired as his leg gave out while he had Flair helpless.

said "The Total Package". "He's yet to beat me fair and square in the middle of the ring. We both know he's scared of me and knows he's going to lose the belt to me, so he tries to prevent me from getting the title shots I deserve. How long was it before he gave me a shot in the first place?? It was seven months, that's how long. I beat him in Baltimore and the Athletic Commission stopped the match. I had him beat every single time I wrestled him, but I was always denied. Now, he wants to deny me what is rightfully mine. Well, Natch, to that I say, No Way!! You don't decide who gets the shots, the NWA does and if they say I'm the #1 challenger then you have to wrestle me and then I get what I deserve, the World Title. In the meantime, since you're running from me, I've got some unfinished business to take care of. I used to have a friend, his name was Barry Windham, one night in Jacksonville, Fla., he stabbed me in the back and walked out of the ring as a Horseman. Now, he has something I used to own, the United States Title. Barry, you've been avoiding me for a long, long time. You've been good at attacking me when I couldn't defend myself, how about getting into the ring with me one-on-one, man-to-man?? I want you bad. And then there's the Road Warriors. I still can't believe what they did, turning their backs on all their friends and fans. My neck still hurts from the clothesline they gave me in Richmond and the memory of that night is still fresh in my mind. Sting remembers, too. We want you two guys in the ring, we want your belts. We've beaten you before and only through your manager's interference did you escape with your belts. How about

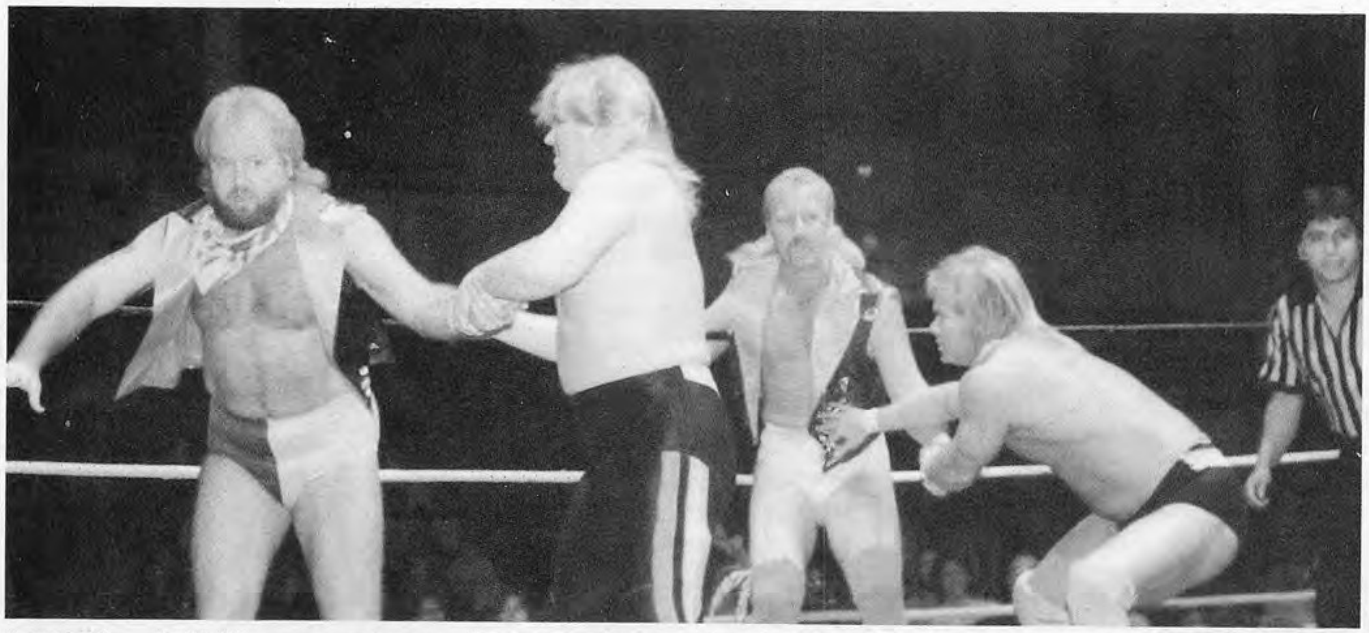
a cage match?? Just the four of us inside a cage, where there's no escape and the better team wins. I know who the better team is, it's me, "The Total Package", and Sting."

Although Lex Luger is down right now, he is not out. He has some scores to settle and some points to be made. And, eventually, if things go the way he plans, once again he will challenge for the World Championship. Something the current World Champion doesn't ever want to see happen. ■

It's hard to believe, but the fans are actually cheering Jim Cornette! Why? Not because he's such a "good guy" now, but because there's actually someone more hateful than the Momma's Boy from Louisville, Kentucky!

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY CHALLENGES JIM CORNETTE

"Now I'M wrestling's number one manager!"



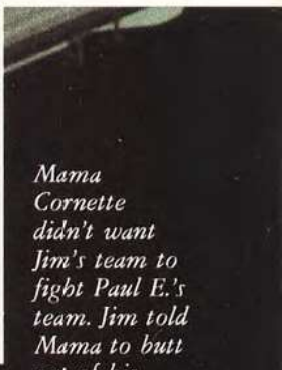
By CHRISTOPHER MUHR

The similarities were uncanny. Jim Cornette got his start as a photographer for the wrestling magazines. So did Paul E. Dangerously. Jim Cornette debuted as a manager at the age of twenty one. So did Paul E. Dangerously. Jim Cornette, within just a few months of starting, became Jimmy Hart's right hand man. Paul E. Dangerously aligned himself with Sir Oliver Humperdink. Cornette, a man with no athletic background, carries a tennis racket. Dangerously, also one with no athletic background, wields a cordless telephone. And, as of last July 11 (1987), both men manage a tag team called THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS!!!

For several years, Jim Cornette has been respected as the top mind in the wrestling game. His genius led The Midnight Express combo of "Loverboy" Dennis Condrey and "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton to the NWA World's Tag Team Championship. But after they lost those belts, something went wrong. A rift developed between Cornette and Condrey, and depending on who you believe, Condrey was either fired or quit the team early last year. Just a few months before the breakup, Paul E. Dangerously made his managerial debut. Always looking for

"Ravishing" Randy Rose has "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton trapped in a head lock.

The "Original" Midnight Express came to the NWA to prove which Midnight Express is the best.



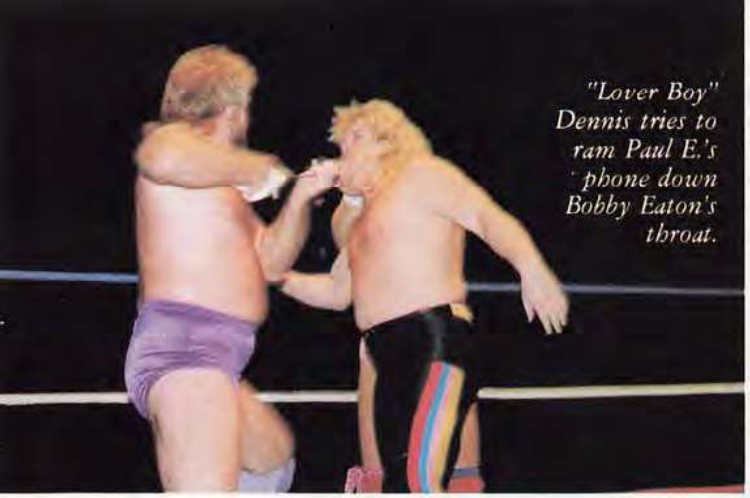
Mama Cornette didn't want Jim's team to fight Paul E.'s team. Jim told Mama to butt out of his business.

money-making opportunities, Paul E. immediately began hunting down Condrey the day Cornette's team split up. While recovering from a broken leg suffered during a scaffold match in Memphis, Tennessee (didn't some other manager — namely Cornette — also get hurt in a scaffold match once?) Dangerously managed to get ahold of Condrey, and the two agreed it was time to reform the original combination of Condrey and Pensacola, Florida native "Ravishing" Randy Rose. The threesome headed to the AWA, and within months defeated Paul E.'s old enemies from Memphis, Jerry "The King" Lawler and "Superstar" Bill Dundee for the AWA World's Tag Team Championship.

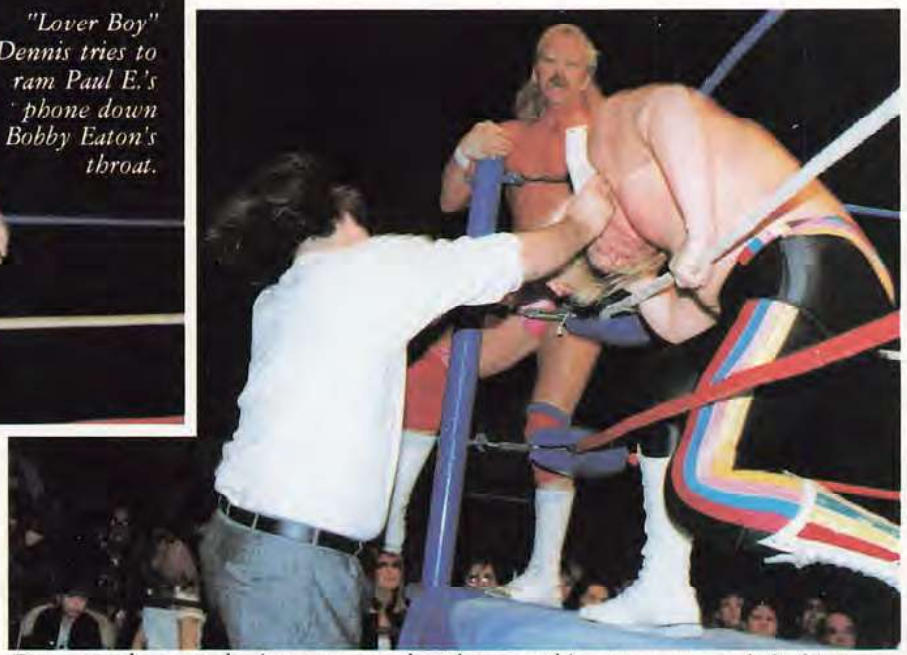
After a controversial title change which saw Condrey and Rose defeated by The Midnight Rockers, Paul E. and crew left the AWA. The team did not team up on a regular basis, but did make several appearences together in Chicago, where they captured the Windy City Tag Team Title from The Terminators. It was during this time, over the summer of '88, that Paul E. started making waves as to which team was the "real" Midnight Express.

Paul E., who was devoting much of his time to "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert in the Continental area during the summer, became increasingly interested as Cornette's team defeated Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the NWA World's Tag Team Championship. Now Cornette had a powerful claim to the name. HIS Midnight Express, which now consisted

PHOTOS BY BOB MILLER, DEBRA MOSER and JOE ZANOLLE



"Lover Boy" Dennis tries to ram Paul E.'s phone down Bobby Eaton's throat.



Dangerously never hesitates to use the phone on his opponents to help his team.

of Eaton and former Fab One "Sweet" Stan Lane, were the World Champions, and Paul E's "original" team held a regional title in Chicago.

Paul E. started to become more and more frantic about which team would get recognized as "THE" team. His "Danger Zone" segments on PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK (By the way, isn't it strange that Cornette now hosts THE LOUISVILLE SLUGGER, a Danger Zone/Piper's Pit type segment on the NWA syndicated package? Yes another similarity), once the comic highlight of the show, became frighteningly violent. He and Gilbert started taking out their frustrations on anyone in sight, including retired wrestler Burrhead Jones and Willie B. Hert's 14 year old son. Their violence uncontrollable, the CWF tried to ban the duo. But before the ban could take place, Gilbert and his manager mysteriously disappeared.

While "Hot Stuff" immediately showed up in the NWA, Paul E.'s whereabouts remained a mystery. PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK stopped receiving the weekly DANGER ZONE segment. No wrestling federations reported having any contact with Dangerously. And Randy Rose, who was the regional champion in the state of Georgia, returned the title to the promotion without any explanation.

In late October, Cornette's team lost the title to The Road Warriors in New Orleans. It was the lowest moment in Cornette's career. Eaton and Lane were decisively beaten by Animal and Hawk, with Bobby suffering a bad laceration in the process. Eaton was beaten up so badly he couldn't wrestle that week on the WTBS-Superstation show.

But Lane could, so Cornette and Eaton came out to the ring with "Sweet" Stan to cheer him on in this television match. All of a sudden, TV announcer Tony Schiavone told Cornette that producer Tommy Edwards had informed him that Jimmy had a phone call right there in the studio. Cornette, not knowing what to do, took the call, and became irate. "Why you little jerk, are you calling to gloat over us losing the belts?" he hollered. "Well, I'll tell you the same thing I've said since you started this whole thing.....Anytime, anyplace, anywhere!" With that, Mrs. Cornette's only son slammed down the phone, and called Bobby over. Apparently, Dangerously had told Cornette on the phone that he was calling from Las Vegas, not letting onto the fact that he had snuck into the building with his tag team, bribed a security guard, and fooled everyone.....even producer Tommy Edwards.

The next few seconds will live in wrestling infamy. Out of nowhere, Condrey attacked Eaton. Rose hit the ring and threw powder in Lane's eyes. And when Cornette jumped into the ring with his tennis racket in order to save Lane, Dangerously came out from behind the studio curtain and cracked him from behind. Paul E. then threw Cornette onto the floor, and when Jimmy stood up....WHAM!!!!! Dangerously creamed Cornette with the telephone. A barely conscious Cornette was rendered, for the very first time in his career, a bloody mess. Condrey and Rose dragged him into the ring, and held him by the arms as Paul E. smacked Cornette in the face until the three made their point and left the studio. They didn't stay for an interview. They didn't pose for pictures. They left. They weren't even supposed to be there!

Jim Cornette was rushed to the hospital, where he was stitched up. The NWA called Paul E., knowing they had to allow the controversial manager and his tag team to wrestle in the NWA, or Cornette and his team would no longer be respected. Wrestling's most hated manager and most hated tag team had been dethroned. Paul E. and *HIS* Midnight Express had taken over.

"I guess this proves what I've been saying all along," Dangerously screamed during a press conference announcing that he and his team had agreed to join the NWA, "That Bobby and Stan are just copies of the real thing, and that Jim Cornette is nothing more than Pee Wee Herman with a Norman Bates complex."

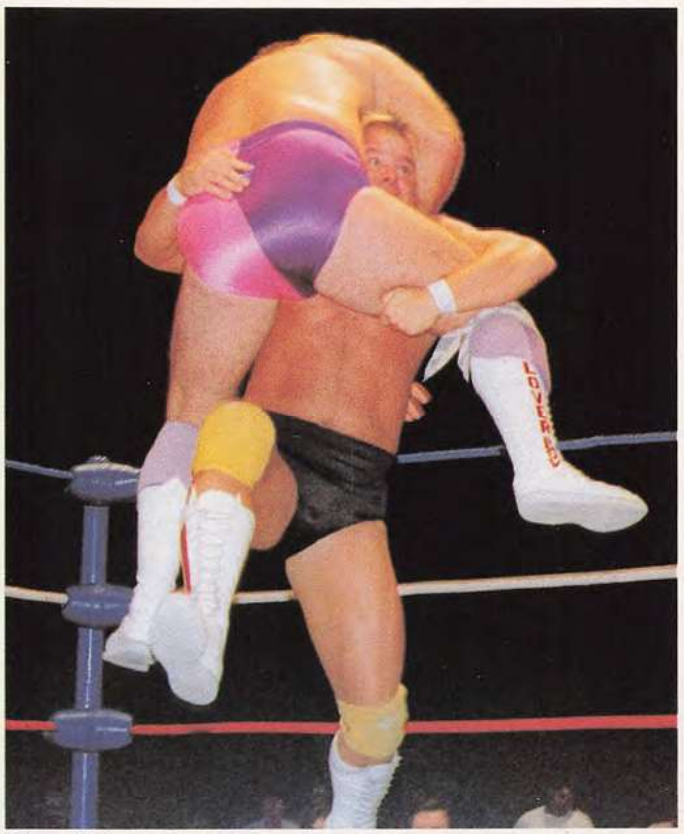
"As a matter of fact, you can tell your Editors that they don't have to refer to us as the "Original" Midnight Express anymore, because we're the *ONLY* Midnight Express as far as I'm concerned," the 23 year old yuppie with a cordless telephone howled as his team laughed along with him, "and this also proves that Jimmy Cornette is no longer the top man in his field. Now I'm wrestling's number one manager! And do you know why? Because for five years, nobody ever beat up Jim Cornette! Oh sure, the Rock 'N' Rolls smacked him around a little, and the Fantastics whipped him a few times, and even the mighty Road Warriors threw him off a scaffold, but he came back from the scaffold match in ten days. We busted him up, made him bleed, and left him for dead on national television. Eaton and Lane's days as The Midnight Express are over, they better find themselves another name, because from now on "Loverboy" Dennis Condrey and "Ravishing" Randy Rose, the greatest team the sport of professional wrestling has ever seen, will be known as the one, the only, the true Midnight Express!"

Jim Cornette has sworn revenge. Paul E. Dangerously is riding high. Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane face the fight of their lives. And Dennis Condrey has returned to the national spotlight. It looks like the NWA is about to become the battleground in the hottest personal war professional wrestling has seen in a very long time. Let's all hail the threesome that wins this feud.

And pray for the losers!!! ■

Jim Cornete and his team know all the dirty tricks that Paul E. and his team know. This feud has been a no-holds-barred brawl inside the ring and out.

Paul E.'s mouth is more than a match for Jim Cornette's pompous verbosity.

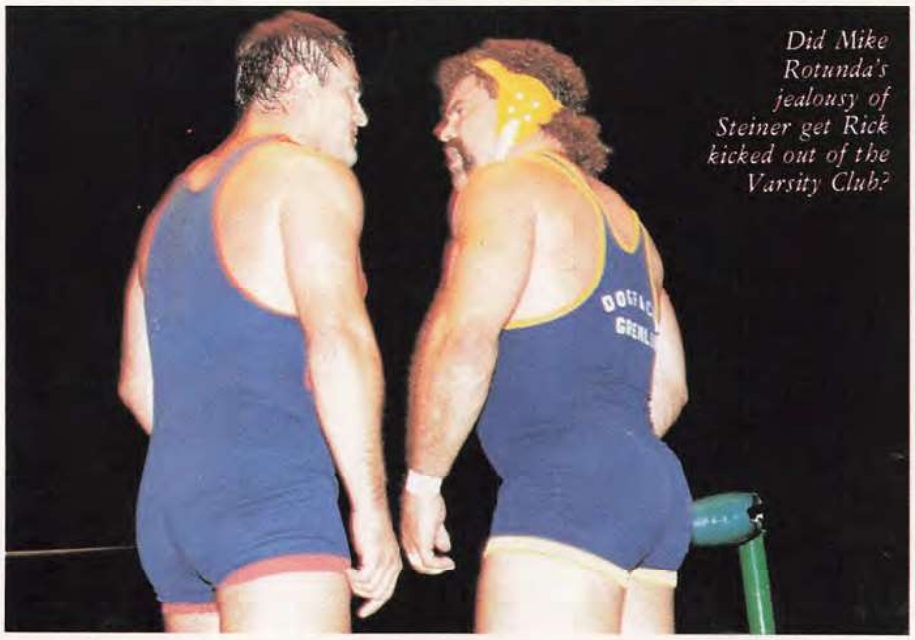


"Sweet" Stan gives "Lover Boy" Dennis a reverse Atomic Drop. Stan replaced Dennis on Jim Cornette's team when Mama fired Dennis.

Most of the time it appears Steiner has no idea where he is or what he's doing.

RICK STEINER: ON HIS OWN IN THE NWA

After months of arguments and battles with his teammates, Mike Rotunda and Kevin Sullivan, Rick Steiner has broken away from the Varsity Club and set out on his own, to make his own reputation as a top-flight professional wrestler. Rick's first step on his own is to win Rotunda's World TV Title. A second step would be to clear his mind of the confusion caused by Kevin Sullivan's influence over his wrestling career. A possibility down the road is the reformation of "Hot Stuff Intl." and a happy reunion with former Championship Tag Team partner Sting and Eddie Gilbert. As of now though, Rick Steiner is on his own and Championship bound in the NWA.



Did Mike Rotunda's jealousy of Steiner get Rick kicked out of the Varsity Club?

By CHRIS BALLEW

The NWA that fans know at present has probably the most unique mix of wrestlers (talented and not so) assembled into one wrestling organization. Two managers are fighting for the right to call their respective teams "The Midnight Express". We have the gorgeous blond Adonis feuding endlessly with the World Champion he will never beat. A cowboy from Sweetwater, Texas is being challenged by a man weighing close to 400 lbs. that dropkicks with as little effort as a junior heavyweight. All of these situations will be settled the night after Christmas at "Starrcade '88: True Gritt". Though all of the matches are significant, Rick Steiner's match with Mike Rotunda for the World Television title holds special significance because it will com-

Steve Williams took Steiner's place in the Varsity Club. Now, they are feuding over Steiner's newly won World TV Title.

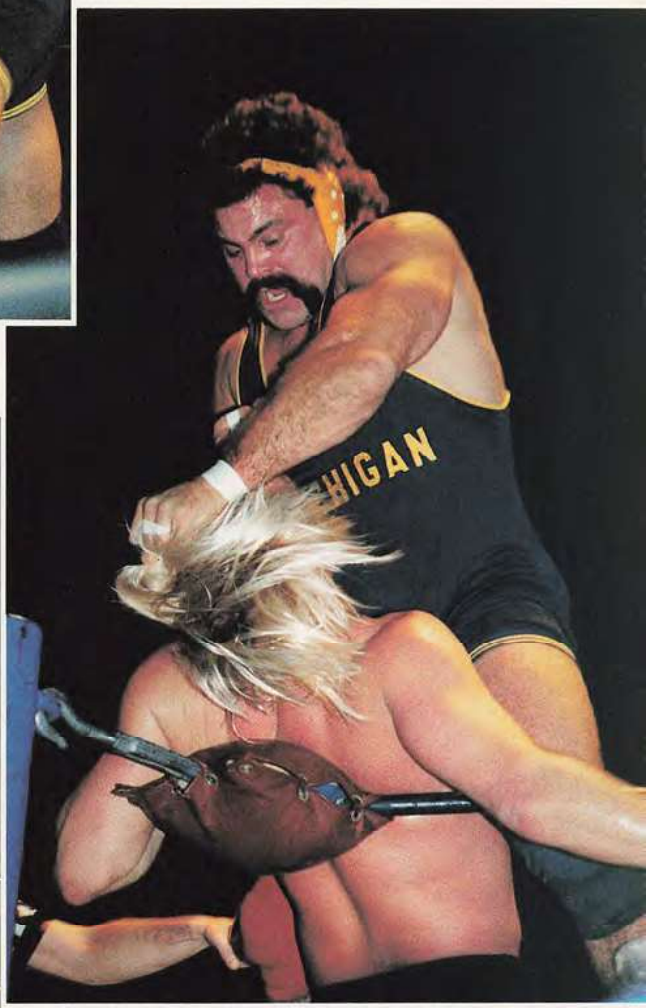
plete Steiner's transition to fan favorite.

From the beginning of Rick Steiner's association with Kevin Sullivan and Mike Rotunda, one could tell something was amiss. Instead of utilizing Rick's obvious athletic prowess and wrestling ability, he instructed Mike Rotunda to "give" Rick his Florida Heavyweight Belt, until he could defend it properly, since holding the NWA Television Title required most of his time. Besides his duty of "guarding" the Florida Belt, he has been reduced, over the course of several months, to a tag team partner to fit into Mike's wrestling schedule, with very little singles action. Sullivan, still considered one of the most brilliant, if not the most demented, wrestling minds in the sport showed very poor judgement in fanning the flames for collegiate rivalry between Steiner and Rotunda. Team rivalries, professional or on the college level, can turn a seemingly friendly, all-business relationship into something ugly. It hasn't helped Steiner and Rotunda's differences to hear a redundant Jim Ross bellow their collegiate credentials week after week on the "NWA Pro Wrestling" program. Even Jesse Ventura might poke his head out from the WWF side of the fence long enough to remind us that ".....this ain't NCAA Wrestling."

I would say that Mike Rotunda should analyze his former partner thoroughly before their post-holiday battle—except that Steiner defies analysis. I can, however, examine the match from a professional angle.

Wrestlers are usually split into two groups—the little guys who execute quickly and the bigger athletes who execute with power. In Rick Steiner, we find a compact, agile, and immensely powerful physical specimen. Rotunda can play the running game with Steiner, but he just can't match power with this volatile opponent. Both are, as far as technical knowledge goes, two of the finest wrestlers in the sport today. Rick Steiner, however, has a tremendous advantage if their match should come down to a slugfest, as brawling has never been one of Rotunda's strong points. Steiner's ability to execute maneuvers with such force is awesome,

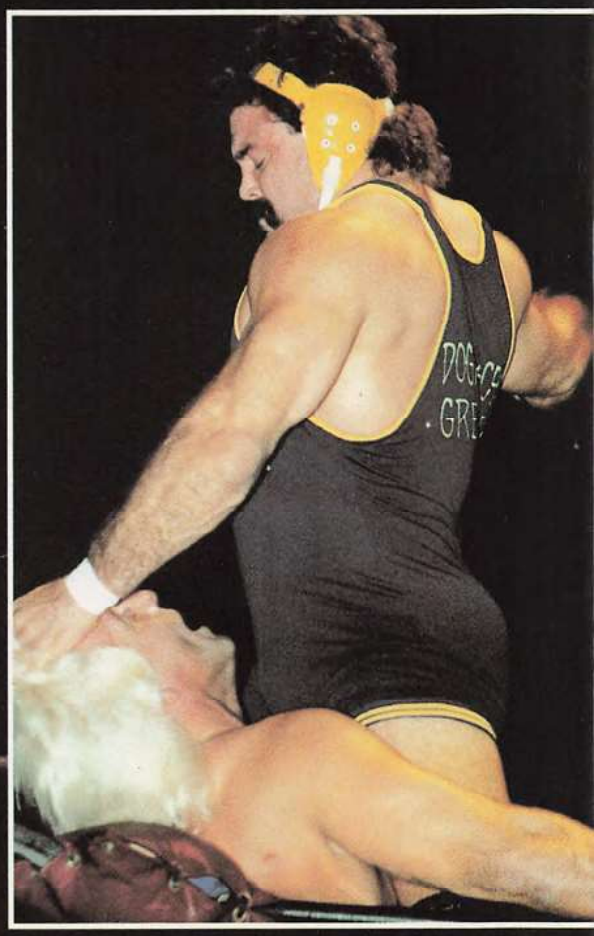
Rick Steiner, "The Dog-Faced Gremlin", barks at the crowd.



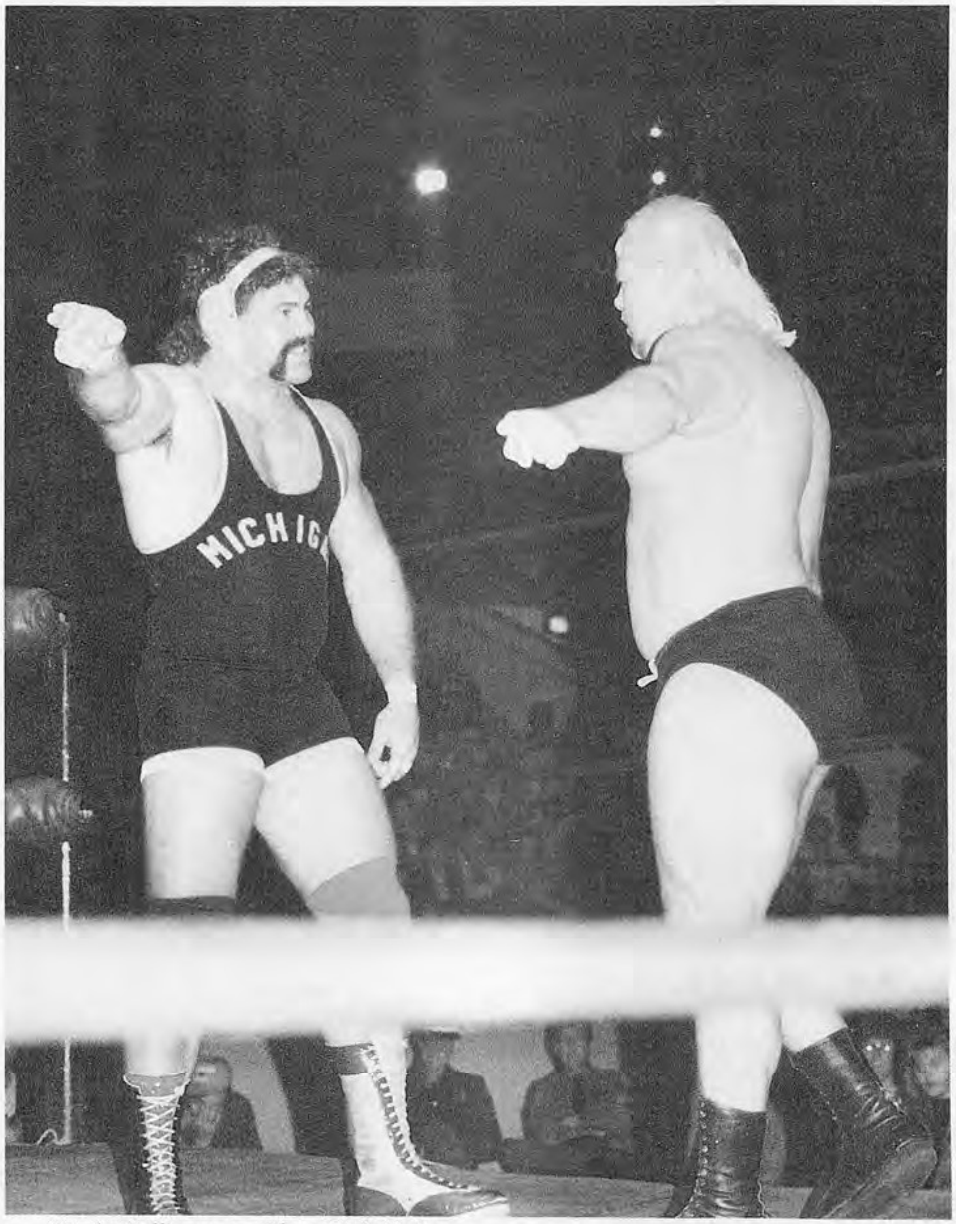
Although a fan favorite now, Steiner is not a scientific, clean wrestler.

and will probably be the deciding factor in this match. Also, Steiner holds the advantage when it comes to motivation and enthusiasm. Have you ever wondered why, in spite of the fact that he cheats like a dog, has no respect for anyone else, and would crawl over a snake for an extra buck, people are still behind Ric Flair? It's his talent, and his enthusiasm for the

PHOTOS BY DEBRA MOSER and JOE ZANOLLE



Steiner's wrestling skills, learned at the University of Michigan, made him a Champion and gave him shots at Ric Flair's World Title.



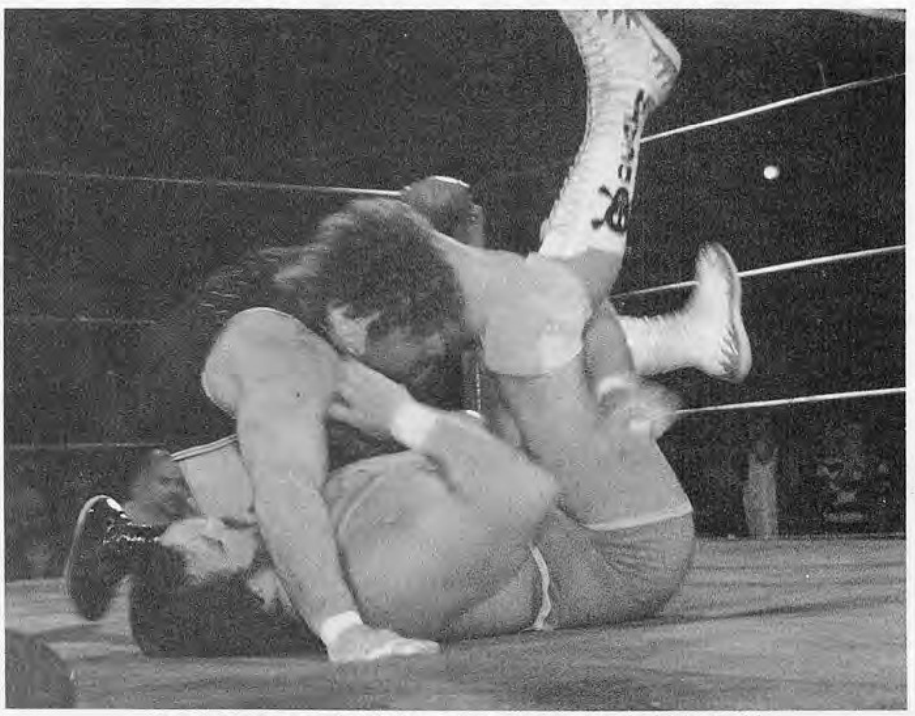
Kevin Sullivan considers Rick Steiner to be nothing but a moron.

sport of kings. We could use a few more wrestlers who are actually interested in wrestling, rather than the warped misuse of the sport as plastic "sports-entertainment". Steiner, fans must also realize, is one of the few mainstream wrestlers who hasn't fallen prey to the promoter's almighty M-words: Marketing and Merchandising. Yes, the major production campaigns made famous by Vince McMahon will most certainly flourish under the ownership of Ted Turner. He'll probably insist on "colorizing" Barry Windham's lovely blond locks, no doubt.

Also relevant to this situation is the fact that Eddie Gilbert has returned to the NWA, this time as a fan favorite, and, upon his return, announced that his main intention was to "....get back what was mine all along." He was talking, obviously, about Rick Steiner, who Kevin Sullivan recruited into the fledgling Varsity Club while Gilbert was busy with other things. While Gilbert was away, his former protege and Steiner's former tag team partner, Sting, rocketed to stardom literally overnight. The possibility exists, now that Gilbert has returned, that Steiner and Sting may reunite for tag team action. It is this writer's opinion that Sting's old partner would be infinitely preferable to the partners he has teamed with as of late. Certainly, Dusty Rhodes needs Sting more than the reverse, and Lex "I Love Me" Luger....well, you fans know what I think of that. Rick Steiner and Sting, having both improved tremendously since their days as UWF World Tag Team Champions, would both be almost unbeatable, and would provide NWA fans with a shot of volatile tag team excitement.

I personally find Steiner much more interesting than some of wrestling's other, less likeable, no-talent buffoons. The playful, happy-go-lucky disposition that Kevin Sullivan managed to suppress for so long has made Steiner an overnight hit with the fans. A man that once didn't give the fans the time of day now wanders out into the audience to share some nachos with a kid, or takes time to shake hands with a few fans. Granted, most people don't think his bread is quite done, but that just gives him all that much more fan appeal.

Rick Steiner has said publicly that he believes in Santa Claus, and if he has been very good, he might receive the NWA World Television Title as a late Christmas gift. If Rotunda has been very good, Steiner might have the compassion to reassemble what is left of his former partner's body, and put it back in his Christmas stocking for him. ■



Steiner can match Williams' power moves hold by hold.

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

PHOTO BY DEBRA MOSER

The Road Warriors hope to end Lex Luger's and Sting's wrestling careers.

WRESTLING'S TOP TWENTY (as of 12/30/88)

1. **Ric Flair** NWA World Heavyweight Champion
2. **Randy Savage** WWF World Heavyweight Champion
3. **Barry Windham** NWA U.S. Champion
4. **Jerry Lawler** AWA, WCCW World Champion
5. **Hulk Hogan** #1 contender WWF Title
6. **Lex Luger** #1 contender NWA Title
7. **Sting** #1 contender NWA U.S. Title
8. **Ted DiBiase** #2 contender WWF Title
9. **Kerry Von Erich** #1 contender WCCW Title
10. **The Ultimate Warrior** WWF Inter-Continental Champion
11. **Rick Steiner** NWA World TV Champion
12. **Mike Rotunda** #1 contender TV Title
13. **Steve Williams** #2 contender TV Title
14. **Dusty Rhodes** #2 contender NWA U.S. Title
15. **Andre the Giant** #3 contender WWF Title
16. **Ron Garvin** WWC Universal Champion
17. **Bam Bam Bigelow** #3 contender NWA U.S. Title
18. **"Iceman" King Parsons** WCCW Texas Champion
19. **Don Muraco** Stampede North American Champion
20. **Dragon Fujinami** IWGP World Champion

TAG TEAMS

1. **The Road Warriors** NWA World Champions
2. **The Midnight Express** #1 contenders NWA Title
3. **Demolition** WWF World Champions
4. **Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond** AWA World Champions
5. **The Samoan Swat Team** WCCW World Champions
6. **The Varsity Club** NWA U.S. Champions
7. **The Powers of Pain** #1 contenders WWF Title
8. **The Fantastics** #1 contenders U.S. Title
9. **The Brainbusters** #2 contenders WWF Title
10. **The British Bulldogs** Stampede Intl. Champions

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

RANDY SAVAGE

WWF

World Champion: Randy Savage

1. The Ultimate Warrior
2. Hulk Hogan
3. Ted DiBiase
4. Andre the Giant
5. The Big Boss Man
6. Bad News Brown
7. Jake Roberts
8. "Ravishing" Rick Rude
9. "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan
10. Curt Hennig

NWA

World Champion: Ric Flair

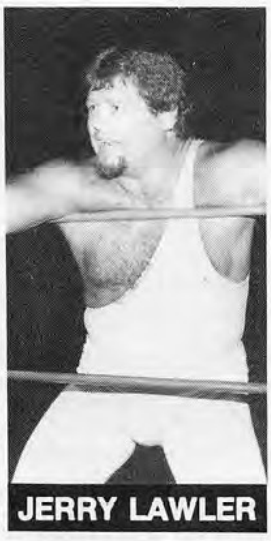
1. Barry Windham
2. Rick Steiner
3. Lex Luger
4. Sting
5. Mike Rotunda
6. Steve Williams
7. Dusty Rhodes
8. Bam Bam Bigelow
9. Al Perez
10. Kevin Sullivan

RIC FLAIR

AWA

World Champion: Jerry Lawler

1. Greg Gagne
2. Wahoo McDaniel
3. Manny Fernandez
4. Col. DeBeers
5. Sgt. Slaughter
6. The Iron Sheik
7. Jimmy Valiant
8. Tommy Rich
9. D.J. Peterson
10. Dutch Mantell



JERRY LAWLER

WWC

Universal Champion: Ron Garvin

1. Jason the Terrible
2. Carlos Colon
3. Hercules Ayala
4. "Hangman" Bobby Jaggers
5. T.N.T.
6. "Rambo" Ron Starr
7. Chicky Starr
8. Ricky Santana
9. Rufus R. Jones
10. The Iron Sheik

KERRY VON ERICH

WORLD CLASS

World Champion: Jerry Lawler

1. "Iceman" King Parsons
2. Kerry Von Erich
3. Kevin Von Erich
4. Kamala
5. Super Black Ninja
6. Chris Adams
7. The Botswana Beast
8. "Flamboyant" Eric Embry
9. Jeff Jarrett
10. Brickhouse Brown

WOMEN

1. Wendi Richter
2. Misty Blue Simms
3. Debbie Combs
4. Madusa Miceli
5. Rockin' Robin
6. Sensational Sherri
7. Velvet McIntyre
8. Linda Dallas
9. Candi Divine
10. Heidi Lee Morgan

TED DIBIASE

MOST HATED

1. Ted DiBiase
2. Andre the Giant
3. Barry Windham
4. Ric Flair
5. The Big Boss Man
6. Jerry Lawler
7. "Ravishing" Rick Rude
8. The Road Warriors
9. Kevin Sullivan
10. Mike Rotunda

HULK HOGAN

MOST POPULAR

1. Hulk Hogan
2. Sting
3. Randy Savage
4. Lex Luger
5. The Ultimate Warrior
6. "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan
7. Kerry Von Erich
8. Rick Steiner
9. Michael Hayes
10. Dusty Rhodes

THE LAST PAGE

The final word this month from WRESTLING'S MAIN EVENT!

THE SURVIVOR SERIES: THE END OF THE MEGAPOWERS??

By AL McGINESS

As Entertainment Editor of WME, it is my duty to cover the latest in the WWF series of pay-per-view shows "The Survivor Series" held Thanksgiving night in Richfield, Ohio. I had no reason to want to spend my happy holiday in a slimepit like Ohio, so, instead, I picked up my phone, placed an order with my Cable TV company and watched this potential rip-off from the comforts of my warm apartment. Instead of dealing with the turkeys who masquerade as "wrestling fans" at the WWF matches, I got to eat some. And instead of being forced to look at the sows that masquerade as women in Ohio, I cozied up with my main squeeze, Louise, who, after the show, showed me how thankful she was that I stayed home for the holiday, if you catch my drift, Whoo!! HaHa!!

Actually I was very surprised, this show wasn't too bad at all. It had a great tag team match featuring several of the greatest tag teams in the world, teams like the Bulldogs, Tully and Arn, the Midnight Rockers, Demolition and Bret Hart and the Barbarian. It also featured Mr. Fuji selling out Demolition to join up with the two phonies, the Warlord and Barbarian. Lots of humanoid WWF fans thought Fuji totally sold out and became a fan favorite manager, but, as usual you were wrong. The Powers of Pain sold you out, just like I expected, and are now rule-breaking wrestlers, just like the real thing, Animal and Hawk, the mighty Road Warriors.

The feature event was a match between a team co-captained by the MegaPowers (and carried by Randy Savage) against a team co-captained by the mighty Big Boss Man and Akeem. What was important here was the great Randy Savage has begun to fight off the brain-killing Hulkamania disease and is beginning to see just how big a phony Chump Hogan really is. Savage and the Chump were left in the ring by themselves against four WWF Superstars, Akeem, Ted DiBiase, the mighty King Haku and the Big Boss Man. While DiBiase was distracted by his slave, Hercules, Savage snuck behind him and cradled him up for a pin, leaving three valiant warriors. For the next few minutes, the three took turns beating up the Chump, until the Boss Man missed a big splash from the top rope and the

Savage didn't know Hogan was prevented from tagging him near the end of the match.

gutless Chump tagged out to Savage. Then, things got very interesting. Slick, who was at ringside, decided it was time to take Elizabeth for a walk, so she wouldn't get hurt by the bodies being thrown from the ring. Elizabeth didn't want to go, so Slick persuaded her to come. Chump Hogan, his attention wandering from the action, saw Elizabeth in the bad guy's corner and went to see what was wrong. Then Akeem and the Boss Man, seeing an unwelcome visitor in their corner, attacked the Chump and handcuffed him to the ring. Haku continued to pound on Savage inside the ring. The referee counted out Boss Man, who was the legal man inside the ring, while he was pounding on the Chump. Then Akeem and Boss Man returned to the ring where they triple-teamed the "Macho Man". Then, Akeem was DQ'ed. Elizabeth was crying in the corner as Savage escaped and tried to tag out. What he found was there was no one home! The Chump deserted him in his time of need. The three valiant warriors pounded on Savage until Akeem and the Boss were chased from the ring by the referee. Haku was left alone to finish off the MegaPowers once and for all. Slick held Savage while Haku went for a knee to the head. Savage ducked and Slick was destroyed. Savage then jumped out of the ring and clobbered Bobby Heenan. With both men down and out, Elizabeth reached into Slick's pocket and got the keys to the handcuffs and released Hogan. Hogan jumped back to his corner and Savage tagged him when he was thrown in there by Haku. The Chump attacked Haku and ended the match quickly with the ridiculous leg-drop and a body-press making Randy Savage, the ultimate survivor.

As usual, the Chump grabbed all the glory. Savage, nearly unconscious, was laying in the ring and the egomaniac was too busy posing down to help his so-called friend. When Elizabeth asked Hogan to help the "Macho Man", he just picked her up and ignored the Champion. This is when Randy Savage woke up. He saw Hogan hugging his wife in the center of the ring and he realized what a snake the Chump really is. He gave the phony one of the dirtiest looks I have ever seen and really let him know how little he respects the bald-headed egomaniac. Randy, welcome back to the real world!! It's good to have you back!

Results of Survivor Series: Brutus Beefcake, The Blue Blazer, Sam Houston, the Ultimate Warrior and Jim Brunzell defeated The Honky Tonk Man, Bad News Brown, Greg Valentine, Ron Bass and Danny Davis—the survivor was the Ultimate Warrior.

The Young Stallions, the British Bulldogs, the Powers of Pain, the Hart Foundation and the Rockers defeated Demolition, the Brainbusters, the Bolsheviks, the Rougeaus and the Conquistadors—the survivors were the Warlord and Barbarian with help from Mr. Fuji, their new manager. Demolition attacked them after the match while the humanoids booed Demolition and cheered Fuji.

Andre the Giant, Dino Bravo, Rick Rude, Harley Race and Curt Hennig destroyed "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan, Jake Roberts, Scott Casey, Ken Patera and Chico Santana. This was a mis-match. Roberts was overwhelmed by three great men, Andre, Hennig and Rude. Ultimate survivors, Rude and Curt.

The MegaPowers, Hillbilly Jim, Hercules and Koko B. Ware defeated The Big Boss Man, Akeem, Red Rooster (an absolute disgrace), Ted DiBiase and King Haku. Randy Savage was the survivor with little help from Chump Hogan. ■

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	5461	Kamala		5623	Hacksaw Jim Duggan
	5479	Adrian Adonis		5603	Rick Martel
	5449	Harley Race		5421	"New" Tito Santana (not pictured)
	5598	Vince McMahon		5619	Billy Jack Haynes
	5462	Koko B Ware		5528	The Referee
	5463	Outback Jack		5473	Ted Arcidi
	5477	Jake the Snake Roberts		5527	Johnny Valiant
	5624	Slick		5474	Hercules Hernandez
	5601	Ken Patera		5429	Miss Elizabeth
	5622	Demolition Ax		5427	Randy Savage

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